

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND

China Overland Trade Report.

VOL. LXI.]

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BIRTHS.

On 27th January, at Shanghai, the wife of N. SPATHE, of a daughter.
On 28th January, at Shanghai, the wife of T. E. DUNN, Chinese Engineering & Mining Co., of a daughter.

MARRIAGE.

On 2nd February, at Shanghai, GEORGE PAISE, to MARGARET AGNES ROBERTS.

DEATHS.

On 23rd January, at Shanghai, Captain STANLEY AMSBURY, of Rockland, Maine, U.S.A., master of the American s.v. *Atlas*.
On 23rd January, at Shanghai, ARCHER F. WILLSON, of Messrs. Brewer & Co.
On 29th January, at Shanghai, EMMA TOMALLA, aged 25 years and 6 months.
On 5th February, at Chinkiang, JAMES KIRKWOOD, First Engineer Imperial Maritimes Customs revenue ship *Chuen Tiao*, aged 58 years.
On 6th February, at Hongkong, Captain ALEXANDER MURPHY, aged 45 years.

Hongkong Weekly Press.

HONGKONG OFFICE: 14, DES VŒUX ROAD CL.
LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.

ARRIVAL OF MAILS.

The English Mail of the 13th January is expected to arrive, per the ss. *Bengal* some time to-day.

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

Likin stations may be abolished when all the commercial treaties are signed.

The Weihaiwei Gold Mining Co. has decided upon reconstruction, and has appointed new directors.

H. E. the Governor has appointed Sergt.-Major E. D. C. Wolfe, H.K.V.C., to be a Lieutenant.

H.E. the Governor has granted Capt. G. J. B. Sayer, H.K.V.C., leave of absence from the 10th inst. to the 31st December.

H.E. the Governor has appointed Dr. F. Gröne to be Assistant Medical Officer of Health, vice Mr. B. L. T. Barnett resigned.

The Bank of Madras has declared a dividend at 8 per cent. per annum, placed to the reserve fund Rs. 1,50,000 and carried forward Rs. 1,06,083.

The s.s. *Hoi Ho*, an old Canton River steamer, has been sold by Mr. Chee Wo to a northern purchaser. She will leave for Shanghai in about ten days.

The Board of Rites has issued the customary notice to all the yamens in Peking that on the 17th 1st Moon they must attend the Board with drums etc. as there will be an eclipse of the moon.

On and after the 1st March, the price of filtered water supplied to water-boats at Laichikok for the use of the shipping will be at the rate of 25 cents per 1,000 gallons, or 5.6 cents per ton approximately.

Last year the Philippines Insular Government deported seventy-four "beachcombers," most of whom undoubtedly came this way. Seventeen "worthy destitute citizens of the United States" were sent home in Government transports.

At the Public Works Department on Feb. 7. Marine Lot No. 2, Inland Lots Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5, and Farm Lot No. 1 situate at Sai Kung in the New Territory, were sold by public auction to Mr. A. H. Rennie for \$13,288, being \$100 above the upset price.

An order of His Majesty in Council, dated the 12th December, 1904, giving effect to the accession of the Kingdom of Sweden to the International Copyright Convention, and to the additional Act of Paris of 1896, was published in the *Hongkong Government Gazette*.

The fourteenth case of plague was recorded on the 4th instant, four cases having occurred that week. The return for the subsequent four days gives two more. One European is down with scarlet fever, and five with smallpox. There are seven cases of smallpox altogether.

Mr. A. G. Ward gave an organ recital on Feb. 7th at St. John's Cathedral, when Mrs. Gordon sang Mendelssohn's Aria "But the Lord" and Liddle's setting of "Abide with me." The composers interpreted by Mr. Ward included Hesse, Guilmant, Wagner, Marshall, Lemare and West.

Rev. J. B. Martinet, late Procureur General in Hongkong of the Society of the Missions Etrangères died on the 7th February, at the French Sanitarium at Pokfulam. He was a Frenchman, who came to China so long ago as 1870. He was successively Procurator of his mission at Singapore (four years) at Shanghai (14 years) and at Hongkong, since 1889. The funeral took place at the French Chapel at Pokfulam.

The *Hongkong Government Gazette* notifies that if any person will make arrangements with the Scavenging Contractor under which the City refuse will be deposited on some reclaimable foreshore to be approved by the Director of Public Works, and build a wall to prevent the rubbish from being washed away, the Government is prepared to lease to such person for agricultural purposes the area so reclaimed at a reasonable rental and without premium for a period of 21 years.

Mr. G. Courtney, a clerk in Messrs. Butterfield and Swire's office, was admitted to the Government Civil Hospital on February 4th suffering from a dislocated shoulder and other painful injuries. He attempted to jump on a Peak tram just as it started, and, missing his footing, was thrown from the station platform into a nullah below. Inquiry recently elicited the assurance that he was progressing favourably. The injury to his back is thought to be not so serious as was at first supposed.

The *Manila Cable News* states: Owing to the death of Reverend Father Torres, late procurator of the Dominican missions in China, whose headquarters is in Hongkong, the Reverend Father Francisco Garcia, well known in this city, has been dispatched to Hongkong to take charge of the procurator there—This is not quite correct. Father Garcia has come to Hongkong as assistant procurator to Father Noval, who was assistant to the late Father Torres, and has now assumed charge.

On February 3rd a Sergeant of the Dockyard Police at Kowloon pulled a man out of the harbour near No. 1 Godown in an exhausted condition. His clothes bore the name of McIver, and he is supposed to be a leading stoker of the torpedo boat destroyer *Virago*. He received first aid treatment, but died about two hours afterwards. How he got into the water is at present a mystery, but it is alleged that he fell overboard from a sampan, and sampans are very seldom seen in this part of the harbour.

The *N.C. Daily News*, reporting that William Gifford Fildes shot himself while being rowed from the s.s. *Sishan* in a sampan, adds:—Capt. Fildes was formerly an employee of Messrs. Butterfield and Swire, whose service he entered as second officer in February, 1893. He became chief officer in August, 1895, and became captain of the C.N.S. *Wenchow* in September, 1900, resigning in February of the following year. Since that date Capt. Fildes has held several remunerative appointments and only lately, we understand, safely ran the blockade into Port Arthur.

Two lightdraft east steam-launches ordered to be built by Governor Tuan Fang when he was at Soochow, having lately been completed, his excellency has instructed Shanghai Taotai to dispatch them without delay to Changsha, capital of Hunan. These launches were intended, the *N.C. Daily News* says, to be used to carry Government dispatches between Soochow and Shanghai, and Soochow and Nanking, for the sake of speed and promptitude. Governor Tuan Fang having left this province, his successor, Lu Yuan-ting, should have taken them over, but this he has apparently refused to do and so the former has had to send for them to be used in Hunan.

"ROMAJI."

(Daily Press, 7th February.)

The necessity of Romanising the Chinese language still occupies the attention of interested people. The latest attempt seems to be that of the Education Association of China, an association connected with the religious mission. This transliteration of Chinese writing into Roman spelling is no attempt at a universal speech, like the defunct Volapuk or the modern Esperanto. It changes no language or dialect, but it is a practical and practicable measure for extending the influence of the language already in use. None of the traditions of Chinese literature are threatened, unless it be the facility for the graphic puns which the similarity of many ideographs has afforded. The best colloquial diction of Mandarin or any dialect can be just as well, if not better, preserved by writing it in the Roman alphabet as in the bewildering scrawls of the scholar. In Japan, the same system, under the name of Romaji, is understood quite well by the natives, and it has been a wonderful help to foreigners desirous of learning Japanese. Without it, a very expressive language, and one that in this form is by no means difficult to acquire, would have been closed to all Europeans except the very few with time to memorise thousands of ideographs, or to take lengthy lessons orally. The same difficulty arose in Japan that promises to hinder the adoption of a Chinese Romaji, in the foolish diversity of rules for pronouncing the foreign spelling. In the absence of a general willingness to acquire an absolutely phonetic writing like PITMAN's shorthand, Roman characters are the best and most widely used medium; but unfortunately one European nation does not pronounce a group of Roman letters in the same way that another does. Perhaps the German method of spelling is the most uniformly phonetic of any, and for Chinese names, this is the system now being adopted by the *Times* and various book-producing sinologues. "Kung hai fat choi" was a local New Year greeting recently appearing in the *Daily Press*, and it affords an instance of the bewilderment likely to occur unless one particular usage be agreed upon. The second word is pronounced, according to the English spelling, as "hay," and not "high," as Romaji students would imagine. But even when the reformers agree to use one spelling, an apparent ignorance of phonetics may mar their efforts. Marks for accent or aspiration are always cumbersome, and there is no real need for them. "Ph," if the student be made to realise that the Romaji is intended to be phonetic, and that there is already a letter "F," is much to be preferred to the missionary device of "P." We are also unable to find any excuse for a conjunction like "Dj." Not even a Chinese tongue can achieve any real difference in the pronunciation of "djang" and "jang." Thus the newest system of Romanising Mandarin, simple as it seems, could probably be much more simplified. The advantage to the foreigner and the Chinese pupil alike, of having to learn, instead of five or six thousand characters, only twenty-seven "initials" and thirty-eight "finals," is obvious. With those syllables, in easy combinations, it should not be difficult to run the whole gamut of the four hundred syllables that the new system embraces. It will be considered a pity in some quarters that an Association doing such a great work for the education of the Chinese masses should be

doing it with the object in chief of supplanting Far Eastern superstitions with the superstitions of the Near East. Thus, we are told that "country women have been taught the Romanised in three months and have learned to read the whole Bible and stood an examination in certain important truths. Thus, in three months one hopelessly illiterate goes home with complete access to the best thought of the world." For being able to read, and being able to understand or discount what one reads, are two different things; and no amount of Romaji lore will give to the native the capacity to grasp the real meanings which have been the subject matter of learned squabbles in Europe for the last thousand years. Whether the ability to read their native newspapers will help the Chinese any further on the road to happiness is also another question, the answer to which cannot reasonably be expected of us.

SUPERSTITION IN EAST AND WEST.

(Daily Press, 8th February.)

It has been always the habit of Europeans to smile at the curious superstitions which are found among the Chinese, but latterly there is evidence that some of these fanciful ideas are gaining a hold in a somewhat curious way, among the nations of the West, whose boasted civilisation is supposed to raise them far above any such vain imaginations. It would perhaps astonish many good people who flatter themselves that something quite new has been discovered by the devotees of the occult sciences, whose speculations now form a species of culte known as "modern spiritism," to hear that, in their true essence, the theories which they propound are very much the same as those embodied in well-known and time honoured superstitions among the Chinese. The notions of the Chinese as to *Fung Shui* and as to the presence of various spiritual influences, mostly of a malign character, around and about them, will be found to bear a very strong family likeness to much that forms the subject of the solemn investigations of the Psychological Society, to be brought forward as something quite new. The Chinaman believes in influences, or "intelligences," or whatever people may be pleased to call them, and he sets about exorcising them with gongs, while the "spiritists" call them up by turning tables or writing with "planchettes." Essentially the two beliefs are one and the same, and the extravagances with regard to the one do not call for a smile very much more than those with respect to the other. The real sanction for such belief in both cases is either sentiment or inner consciousness, and the belief will be more or less accepted in one or the other form according to temperament or tradition. Of late years we have not heard so much as formerly of the difficulties which the Chinese faith in *Fung Shui* presents to material progress. What the exact belief is which is entertained by the masses in China as to the danger of disturbing these local influences or spirits (for it is not quite clear which they are considered) has never been perfectly understood by Europeans. So far as can be ascertained, the idea seems to be of some mysterious action in that debatable region which lies between spirit and matter and to which—as an easy mode of explanation—men are fain to remit all that cannot be readily explained by ordinary experience. As science advances, it is discov-

ered that there are quite as many mysteries in the natural as in what has been deemed (with doubtful logic) the supernatural world, and speculative genius is divided on the question into which class it should place any phenomenon of an unexpected and new character. If we had never heard of MARCONI but had suddenly come upon the results of his discovery, wireless telegraphy would by a large number of people be dumped down among the supernatural. As it is, people are beginning to speculate whether a good deal which they have considered supernatural is not something like wireless telegraphy. On the other hand, with the advance of science, there has been little diminution in superstition and it is curious to find theories quite as fantastic as anything with respect to *Fung Shui* gravely propounded by men of scientific eminence in the West. We ought not therefore to be surprised that the Chinese have their own beliefs as to things which will probably remain mysteries to the end of our race, from whatever point of view they may be approached. What is of importance to remember is that the Chinaman really believes in the influences of *Fung Shui* and of departed spirits much more seriously than people generally give him the credit of doing. In an ordinary way, he is so prosaic that we jump to the conclusion that he has no imagination, and conclude that he does not attach much importance to mere popular beliefs. As far as we hear of them, these superstitions are explained to us only in a very crude form; and we are apt to jump to the conclusion that they cannot be seriously entertained by reasonable men. The manner, however, in which popular sentiment has been often roused in China through an appeal to superstitious beliefs negatives this idea; and no one who is aware of these facts can consider that such ideas are a mere form of philosophic speculation. Such beliefs are a force which has to be reckoned with; and we can scarcely be surprised that the official classes are able to call it into active operation when it suits them, when we bear in mind the degree to which Europeans of marked intelligence have been influenced by very similar beliefs, especially of late years. When we find men like Sir WILLIAM CROOKES believing the teachings of modern "spiritists," we may at least look with some charity upon the Chinaman who believes in the ancient spiritism of his country. People will believe almost anything when once their imagination has been sufficiently excited. A work recently published on what is called "Modern Spiritism" treats the subject in the most serious manner, and at least is interesting as showing the number of persons—some of scientific eminence—who have been induced to believe these fanciful theories, upon what appears to many people as very little evidence beyond an ingenious appeal to the imaginative faculties. When it is borne in mind that the speculations which are made in this direction have for ages been familiar not only to the Chinese but to other Oriental nations, it may perhaps be admitted that there is less in them than has been conjectured. We do not wish to enter into a polemical discussion on this very expansive subject; but it may be useful to point out as an undeniable fact that there is nothing really new in any of the speculations which have been based upon supposed supernatural manifestations. If we abstract from them all that is derived from Brahminism and Buddhism, and the still larger portion that is nothing more than a reproduction of old superstitions familiar in the East, it will be found that very little remains that can be looked upon in any way as a new discovery.

THE GOVERNOR'S CHARITABLE SCHEME.

(Daily Press, 9th February.)

Such information as may be gleaned by a reading of the report of the Hongkong Benevolent Society's meeting impels us slightly to modify our opinion of the recent charitable proposal of His Excellency the GOVERNOR. The assumption was—and it was not ours, but Sir MATTHEW NATHAN's—that the Society invited to take up the proposal had “better opportunities for making the scheme known, and for getting people to become guarantors.” This idea we can no longer entertain, after the official exposure of the existing claims upon the Society, and the unhappy confession with regard to its means to meet them. In view of this, it seems extraordinary that a Society, with a burden already more than it can carry comfortably, should undertake to give part of its influence, admittedly not great enough to make its own path smooth, to the task of obtaining subscriptions for another branch of charitable enterprise. It is useless to insist that the subscribers are only waiting for some channel into which to pour their generosity. His EXCELLENCY's letter expressly describes their new duty as that of “getting people to become guarantors”; and we have it on the authority of His Lordship the BISHOP, who presumably has his finger on the pulse of philanthropic Hongkong, that this would be an onerous duty, that, in fact, the generosity of Hongkong endureth only for a season, and that in time the guarantors would “diminish in numbers.” However, the struggling Benevolent Society was not dismayed, and though its resolution was couched in an unexpected form, it has agreed to try for a year. With its shoulder to the wheel of its own vehicle, it is, as it were, reaching out a hand to help pull along the handcart of the Seamen's Home.

The general impression left with us after reading the lengthy report is concerned with the adaptability of various professional men to practical politics. *Inter alia*, the value of Judges and the futility of Bishops seems to obtrude. This is not a polite thing to say, but, as Sir H. S. BEEKELEY put it, there is no use in mincing matters. It must be admitted that, as the Judge also said, nearly all the speakers wandered away from the real question. No one wandered further, it seems to us, than the Rt. Rev. Bishop HOARE, some of whose *obiter dicta* startled us exceedingly. According to him, it was a weak point that the scheme should put upon individuals a responsibility which ought to rest upon the whole community. When in leisure moments we permit ourselves to ponder the usual teachings of bishops, one phrase comes uppermost. It relates to one's duty to one's neighbour, and there is a sort of implication that this duty is more of a privilege than a responsibility. Has there been a change of tenets, or is His LORDSHIP mistaken in suggesting that our duty to our neighbour has now become the duty of the Government? Another remark he made referred to the Rev. J. H. FRANCE, who “came here to be a clergyman,” and not to assist philanthropic movements. We have a lively admiration for the Rev. J. H. FRANCE's truer conception of his duty as a follower of the great Philanthropist; and cannot imagine him complaining that he is “as hard worked as any man in the Colony.” However, it was perhaps a naturally professional view for a Bishop to take, and we need not take the words too seriously. Governments are proverbially hard to move, and we never felt so glad of it as when we reflected that even a

Church dignitary would experience difficulty in drawing the Colonial Government into legislative bypaths where it has no right to be. The summing up—we cannot resist the temptation to call it so—of the CHIEF JUSTICE was as business-like as the others were otherwise. As it was exactly in line with our own previous arguments, we feel flattered. The present position of affairs is on the whole satisfactory. There may not be so many guarantors as the GOVERNOR and the Benevolent Society hope, but on the other hand, if the cases be properly sifted, the demands upon the new fund will be commensurately few.

THE TALK OF PEACE.

(Daily Press 10th February.)

We notice that both the *Times* and the *Standard* announced the probability of an early restoration of peace. The *Times* was “in a position to state,” and the *Standard* quoted “an authoritative quarter.” An examination of the information vouchsafed with such hopeful preliminaries does not encourage us to attach to it the importance and significance we would be glad to believe it possessed. It is the same old story, based on the popular but not fully warranted assumption that the fall of Port Arthur must hasten the end of the war. The “authoritative” source appears to have been Japanese, and Japan has no authority to speak for more than herself. It has been understood all along that the Japanese would welcome peace—on terms. As Viscount HAYASHI phrased it last month: “Of course we want peace. We wanted peace before war broke out, and have continued to desire it ever since. But it takes two parties to come to an agreement, and we have yet to learn that Russia will accede to our terms.” Thus, while it is pleasant to contemplate a cessation of the slaughter that has shocked us, and interesting to read of the long anticipated demands for Saghalien, for a Korean protectorate, for Port Arthur, for the Manchurian Railways to be made International, and for a large indemnity, we have to recognise these things as parts of an oft-told tale, and to realise that while Japan has too much right and too much might now to concede any material point, and while Russia clings desperately to her vanishing prestige, there can be no certainty of an early settlement. The war, too, shares one characteristic of the domestic quarrel, in that the longer it is allowed to continue, the harder it will be to patch up the peace. The more cost Japan is put to, in blood and treasure, the greater must be the price of peace, and the more firmly will she insist upon her “pound of flesh.” That reference is hardly just in the connection, for Japan's demands, great as they are, do not in principle go beyond the objects for which she plunged into hostilities, and her insistence on the major points indicated will be inspired less by avarice than by the simple necessity of self-preservation. Had Russia not been embarrassed by domestic disorder, the outlook for peace would have been still more hopeless. We know that the Tsar's Government was hoping against hope for some victory that would restore her prestige, or, as the Chinese say, save her face. There is no doubt that this hope still persists, and the notorious chanciness of battle justifies it, notwithstanding the uninterrupted successes of the Japanese forces. That the disturbances in Russia are serious enough to affect the conduct of her troops in the East cannot for a moment be doubted, although we are hearing less about them than we did.

Prince TRUBETSKOI's letter to the MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR, which was reproduced by us yesterday, shows that, as the royal writer told the Tsar, it is “not a simple disturbance, but a revolution.” The Vienna correspondent, HUGO GANZ, whose “Downfall of Russia” Messrs. HODDER AND STOUGHTON have just published, tells us that in all Russia, save perhaps in parts of the Baltic provinces, he could find no trace of a dynastic sentiment, no loyalty of the kind to be seen in most other countries. To the masses the TSAR represents the essence of temporal and spiritual power; to the intelligent classes, an element of fate. The grand dukes attract more interest, for they are “josses” to be seen and heard, who can help or harm. People speak freely in private of the “Soltikoff dynasty,” an unmistakable allusion to the first lover of the notorious Empress CATHERINE II. TOLSTOY and the anarchists, working from different ends, have sapped the strength of the popular faith in the TSAR as the spiritual head, the faith alone which held together the regard which personal loyalty elsewhere inspires. Were a sinologue and an authority on things Russian to collaborate with a view to showing the points of similarity between China and Russia, we imagine the result would startle most people. Superficially, we may note a few. There is the unwieldy overgrowth of each empire, itself a natural barrier to the cohesion that means loyalty. There is in each case the ignorance and superstition of the masses, and the oppression and corruption on the part of the classes. There is the same general view of the ruler, which approximates to the Unitarian's vague appreciation of his God, a recognition of power, without any particular feeling of personal devotion. There is the same mystery for outsiders, the difficulty of understanding the people; and almost a like mixture of languages and tribes. Likenesses could also be traced in the methods of administration, and similarity in the intriguing that goes on in the ante-chambers of the respective palaces. There is a similar burden of national loans. There is also a resemblance in the status of woman, which is perhaps the most important point of all, for no nation can be uplifted where sexual depravity exists; and neither the Russian nor the Chinaman has yet realised the need of putting woman into the place assigned to her by higher civilisations. Justice is on the like footing. “To win a lawsuit,” we are told, “is in Russia a matter of luck, not the result of a definite state of justice.” When a so-called European nation can be so compared with China, of all countries, its condition must indeed be deplorable. And who can say that Russia has yet touched the nethermost deep to which she seems to be trending?

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

A meeting of the Sanitary Board was held in the Board Room on February 7th. Dr. J. M. Atkinson (President) presided, and there were also present the Hon. Mr. P. N. H. Jones (Vice-President), the Hon. Mr. A. W. Brewin, Col. W. E. Webb, R.A.M.C., Mr. Lau Chu Pak, Mr. A. Rumjahn, Dr. F. Clark, Dr. H. Macfarlane, Dr. F. Gröne, and Mr. T. A. Hammer (Secretary).

The minutes of the previous meeting were confirmed.

MR. RUMJAHN CALLED TO ORDER.

The PRESIDENT, pursuant to notice, moved “That the Board, under the provisions of Section 30 of the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance, 1903, depute Dr. W. W. Pearse and Dr. F. Gröne to institute summary proceeding

before a Magistrate against any person contravening any of the Bye-laws duly made under Section 16 of the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance, 12 3.

"That the Board, under the provisions of Section 256 of the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance, 1903, depute Dr. W. W. Pearce and Dr. F. Gröne to institute summary proceedings before a Magistrate for the recovery of any penalty imposed by Part II of the said Ordinance or any Bye-laws made thereunder.

The PRESIDENT, in support of his motion, said:—It is necessary that the M.O.H. and senior plague inspectors and the two prosecuting inspectors be authorized to institute summary proceedings. Of course the inspectors are only permitted to do so when so ordered by the M.O.H. I would state reasons:—Dr. Pearce was only acting M.O.H., and now Dr. Clark has returned, and Dr. Gröne has taken the place of Dr. Barnett.

Mr. RUMJAHN—I presume that in your resolution being passed the gentlemen named in the motion will be directed to institute prosecutions instead of the inspectors who have been deputed from time to time by the Board. If my presumption is correct I think we should see less or none at all of these reckless prosecutions which have taken place during the past twelve months.

The PRESIDENT—I call you to order. If you have any further motion to make, give notice and bring it before the next meeting.

Mr. RUMJAHN—I am addressing you on your motion and think it is in my province to speak. I am not speaking against the motion, but if you hold that I am out of order I will sit down.

The PRESIDENT—I do hold that you are out of order.

The President's motion was carried.

WATER ANALYSES.

Water analyses during the month of January showed the public supply to be of excellent quality.

MORTALITY STATISTICS.

The mortality statistics for the week ended the 7th January show the following figures at a death rate per thousand per annum:—British and foreign civil population, 24.9; preceding week, 10.3; corresponding week last year, 5.1. Chinese population, 17.8; preceding week, 16.4; corresponding week last year, 12.9.

LIMEWASHING RETURN.

The limewashing return for the fortnight ended 31st January shows that 4,356 houses were treated in the eastern district, and 5,379 in the central district.

RAT RETURN.

The rat return for the week ended the 4th inst. shows that 351 rats (seven infected) were caught in Victoria, and 144 (four infected) in Kowloon.

SUPREME COURT.

Tuesday, 7th February.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR MR. T. S. RECOMBE SMITH (PUISNE JUDGE).

LAU WAN KUT V. TSUI KWAI.

Hearing was concluded in this action, in which the plaintiff claimed \$210 damages, and \$17.70 costs, the damages being value of the deficiency of certain goods which the defendant undertook to carry from Chan Tsun to Hongkong. Mr. R. A. Harding appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. R. F. C. Master (of Messrs Johnson, Stokes and Master) for the defendant.

His Honour in giving judgment said:—In this interesting and rather difficult case the plaintiff sues the master of a junk for the sum of \$210 being the value of deficiency of certain goods which the defendant undertook to carry from Chan Tsun, and to deliver to the plaintiff at Hongkong. The plaintiff stated that on the 6th January last he went on board the defendant's junk and made arrangements that the defendant should receive on board a hundred jars. These jars were wrapped up in matting, and the were loaded on the same day. They were loaded on the same day. They were loaded till the 7th January. The plaintiff says that at the time of the loading of these goods

he was on board the junk and saw Lo Sz (the supercargo) to whom he handed an envelope. He states that the goods were taken alongside by means of boats which came from Canton where he (the plaintiff) bought the goods on the 4th January. He even says that he saw each jar filled with fifty catties of rice. He says he made arrangements with Lo Sz, Lo Sz fully knowing that this cargo was a cargo of rice and not a cargo of shredded turnips as described on the envelope. He says that at the time when he took these goods on board he arranged that the freight should be \$70. In reply to that story the defendants say that they never saw the plaintiff on board at all; and that the goods were handed on board by a boatman. Nothing was said to the master or Lo Sz about the goods being rice; they did not infer that the goods were rice, and had no idea that they were rice. The master said that had he known that they were rice he would not have taken the cargo to Hongkong because it is well known that the exportation of rice from China is prohibited by the Chinese Government. Had he undertaken to smuggle out of China a cargo of rice under the guise of shredded turnips he would have been liable to suffer a penalty. The witness for the defence all say that the goods were brought on board on the 6th and not the 7th January, and they declare that they did not see this man (plaintiff) come on board. The conclusion I have come to is that Lo Sz did not know but that the cargo was a cargo of shredded turnips. I have come to the conclusion that the plaintiff is not speaking the truth in telling me that he was on board the junk at Canton and I think that these goods were put on board the defendant's junk by means of the plaintiff having fraudulently given a wrong description of them, and under these circumstances the authorities quoted show that if goods have been shipped under a wrong description—and this has been done—fraudulently, and the carrier has been deceived as to their value, he is not responsible. Most cases quoted refer to carriage by land, but the rule, also, as has been shown, applies to carriage by sea. I have said that I disbelieve the story of the plaintiff. He told me that the freight was arranged at \$70, but the evidence makes me believe otherwise, because when the junk arrived at Capsumun the master told Lo Sz to put down \$70 as freight without any suggestion on the part of Lo Sz. Had Lo Sz known of an arrangement he would certainly have said so at that time. Again, the plaintiff swears that he paid \$70 in freight, while it appears that he did not do anything of the kind. I believe that this man came on board alarmed by the amount demanded of him and after some haggling the sum agreed on was \$40 and \$5 like. The lump sum for freight was put down because the defendant was very angry at having this rice cargo forced upon him by the plaintiff when the plaintiff described it as a cargo of shredded turnips. I think he was quite right in laying on the price. I think there was not in any way ratification because I am convinced that there never was a contract at Canton and at Capsumun the defendant found that he was in possession of a cargo thrust on him against his will, and was entitled to charge any price he liked. The plaintiff, being guilty of such fraud, is not entitled to recover any damages. I give judgment for the defendant with costs.

Thursday, 9th February.

IN BANKRUPTCY.

BEFORE SIR H. S. BERKELEY (CHIEF JUSTICE).

Cheung Cook Nam, a debtor lately trading as dealer in jewellery, silk, ivory, at No. 41 Queen's Road Central, was examined by Mr. G. H. Wakeman (Official Receiver). The debtor said that he had been in business for nine years having commenced with a capital of \$14,000. For two or three years the business was run at a profit but he had borrowed money to start a branch at Havana and owing to the high rate of interest and heavy expenses he began to lose money. He knew he was in difficulties three years ago but expected to

receive sufficient money from abroad to pay his creditors.

Mr. P. W. Goldring said that there were upwards of 30 creditors but only one (the landlord), who was secured, showed any interest in the proceedings. The examination was declared closed.

In the case of the Hang On Firm, lately trading at No. 102 Queen's Road, Mr. C. E. H. Beavis applied for adjudication on behalf of the Official Receiver. The application was granted.

Re the Yeung Hing Bank, bankers and cigar merchants, of No. 144 Queen's Road, Mr. W. Dixon applied for a receiving order. The manager of the bank had absconded and there was no likelihood of him coming up for his examination. The application was granted.

The public examination re the Wing Chan Kee firm was adjourned at the application of the Official Receiver.

COMPANIES.

HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

The seventy-ninth report of the court of directors to the ordinary half-yearly general meeting of shareholders to be held at the City Hall, Hongkong, on Saturday, the 18th February, at noon, reads:—To the Proprietors of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.

Gentlemen.—The directors have now to submit to you a general statement of the affairs of the bank, and balance sheet for the half-year ending 31st December, 1904.

The net profit for that period, including \$1,492,554.31, balance brought forward from last account, after paying all charges, deducting interest paid and due, and making provision for bad and doubtful accounts, amount to \$4,745,544.05.

The directors recommend the transfer of \$1,000,000 from the profit and loss account to credit of the silver reserve fund, which fund will then stand at \$8,000,000.

They also recommend writing off bank premises account the sum of \$200,000.

After making these transfers and deducting remuneration to directors there remains for appropriation \$3,530,544.05, out of which the directors recommend the payment of a dividend of one pound and ten shillings sterling per share, which at 4/6 absorbs 533,333.33, and a bonus of one pound sterling per share, which at 4/6 will absorb \$355,555.55.

The difference in exchange between 4/6, the rate at which the dividend and bonus are declared, and 1/11 9-16, the rate of the day, amounts to \$1,148,246.42.

The balance \$1,493,408.75 to be carried to new profit and loss account.

DIRECTORS.

Mr. E. Tomkins has been elected Chairman for the year 1905 and Mr. H. A. W. Slade deputy Chairman.

Mr. A. J. Raymond, Mr. H. E. Tomkins and Mr. N. A. Siebs retire in rotation, but being eligible for re-election, offer themselves accordingly.

AUDITORS.

The accounts have been audited by Mr. W. Hutton Potts and Mr. A. G. Wood, who offer themselves for re-election.

A. J. RAYMOND, Chairman.

The accounts are as follows:—
ABSTRACT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.
31st December, 1904.

LIABILITIES.		\$	c.
Paid-up Capital	.....	10,000,000.00	
Sterling reserve fund	.....	10,000,000.00	
Silver reserve fund	.....	7,000,000.00	
Marine insurance account	.....	250,000.00	
Notes in circulation:—			
Authorized issue against securities deposited with the Crown agents for the Colonies	.....	\$10,000,000.00	
Additional issue authorized by Hongkong Ordinance No. 19 of 1900 against Coin lodged with the Hongkong Government	.....	6,422,597.00	
			16,422,597.00

Current accounts:—	
Silver.....	\$70,956,898.34
Gold, £3,682,716.10.7.—	89,104,287.84
	110,061,186.18
Fixed deposits:—	
Silver.....	\$48,560,443.56
Gold, £5,132,433.16.0.—	55,327,919.12
	103,888,362.68
Bills payable (including drafts on London bankers call loans and short sight drawings on London office against bills receivable and bullion shipments).....	
	12,426,024.02
Profit and loss account.....	4,745,544.05
Liability on bills of exchange rediscounted, £4,191,571 8s. 10d. of which £3,111,482 0s. 6d. have since run off.	
	\$274,793,709.93
ASSETS.	
Cash.....	\$ 37,472,737.62
Coin lodged with the Hongkong Government against note circulation in excess of \$10,000,000.....	8,500,000.00
Bullion in hand and in transit.....	5,731,680.95
Indian Government rupee paper.....	2,035,153.16
Consols, Colonial and other securities	9,214,976.98
Sterling reserve fund investments, viz.:—	
£570,000 2½ per cent Consols at 55.....	£ 434,500
(of which £250,000 lodged with the Bank of England as a special London reserve.)	
£255,000 2½ per cent National war loan, at 90.....	229,500
£325,000 Other sterling securities, written down to.....	286,000
	£ 1,000,000 10,000,000.00
Bills discounted, loans and credits.....	85,601,394.98
Bills receivable.....	115,009,136.41
Bank premises.....	1,228,629.80
	\$274,793,709.93

GENERAL PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

Dr.	31st December, 1904.	\$ c.
To amounts written off:—		
Remuneration to directors.....		15,000.00
To dividend account:—		
£1 10s. per share on 80,000 shares=£12,000 at 4s. 6d. 533,333.33		
Bonus of £1 per share on 80,000 shares=£80,000 at 4s. 6d.....		355,555.55
		888,888.88
To dividend adjustment account:—		
Difference in exchange between 4s. 6d., the rate at which the dividend and bonus are declared, and 4s. 11 9-16th the rate of the day.....		1,118,246.42
To transfer to silver reserve fund.....		1,000,000.00
To transfer to bank premises account.....		200,000.00
To balance forward to next half-year.....		1,493,408.75
		\$4,745,544.05

Cr.	\$ c.
By balance of undivided profits, 30th June, 1904.....	1,492,554.31
By amount of net profits for the six months ending 31st December, 1904, after making provision for bad and doubtful debts, deducting all expenses and interest paid and due.....	3,252,989.74
	4,745,544.05

STERLING RESERVE FUND.

To balance.....	\$10,000,000.00
By balance 30th June, 1904.....	\$10,000,000.00
(invested in sterling securities.)	

SILVER RESERVE FUND.

To balance.....	\$8,000,000.00
By balance 30th June, 1904.....	7,000,000.00
By transfer from profit and loss account.....	1,000,000.00
	\$8,000,000.00

THE HONGKONG, CANTON AND MACAO STEAM-BOAT CO., LD.

The report of the Board of Directors to the ordinary half-yearly meeting of shareholders to be held at the office of the Company, on Tuesday, 14th February, at 12 o'clock noon, reads:—

The directors beg to submit to the shareholders the report and statement of accounts for the half-year ending 31st December last.

After paying running expenses, salaries, premia of insurance, repairs and all other outgoings, there remains, including \$16,362.85 brought forward from last account, the sum of

\$106,160.88 at credit of profit and loss account. From this amount the directors recommend that a dividend of one dollar per share or \$80,000 be paid to shareholders, leaving a balance of \$26,160.88 to be carried forward to new account.

The adverse conditions of the trade mentioned in the last report have continued during the six months under review and there is nothing of special interest in connection with the working of the steamers to comment upon.

Mr. H. E. Tomkins resigned his seat at the Board in consequence of his intended departure from the Colony, and Mr. F. Salinger was nominated by the directors to fill the vacancy subject to confirmation by the shareholders at this meeting.

The retiring auditors, Messrs. A. O'D. Gourdin and W. H. Potts offer themselves for re-election.

W. J. GRESSON,
Chairman.

The accounts are as follows:—

31st Dec., 1904.	ASSETS.	\$ c.
Value of steamers <i>Honam</i> , <i>Po-wan</i> , <i>Heungshan</i> , <i>Lungshan</i> , <i>Itsha of Fatshan</i> and <i>Kinshan</i> , and <i>3rd of Sainam</i> , <i>Nanning</i> , <i>Tak Hing</i> , <i>Lintan</i> and <i>Sanui</i> , as per last account.....		
		941,500.00
Final payment account <i>Sanui</i>		1,300.00
		942,800.00
Value of lighters <i>Sun Lee</i> and <i>Woo Lee</i>		8,500.00
Value of wharves, hulks, and moorings.....		81,550.00
Value of properties at Canton, Wuchow and Kongkum.....		137,846.77
Value of spare gear.....		15,980.61
Value of furniture.....		750.00
Value of shares in public companies.....		653,710.00
Value of Chinese bonds.....		1,034.48
Loans on mortgage.....		544,000.00
Interest accrued.....		2,360.25
Sundry debtors.....		11,136.63
		\$2,399,663.74

31st Dec., 1904.	LIABILITIES.	\$ c.
Amount of capital, 80,000 shares of \$15 each, fully paid up.....		
		1,200,000.00
Amount at credit of depreciation and insurance fund.....		600,000.00
Amount at credit of equalization of dividend fund.....		250,000.00
Amount at credit of investment fluctuation account.....		159,444.98
Unclaimed dividends.....		5,793.00
Sundry creditors.....		36,926.36
Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, current account.....		42,344.12
Amount at credit of profit and loss account.....		106,160.88
		\$2,399,668.74

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

31st Dec., 1904.	Dr.	\$ c.
To amount paid for repairs to steamers.....		13,391.22
To directors and auditors' fees.....		4,750.00
Balance to be appropriated, viz.:—		
Dividend of \$1 per share on 80,000 shares.....		\$80,000.00
To be carried forward to new account.....		26,160.88
		106,160.88
		\$124,302.10

31st Dec., 1904.	Cr.	\$ c.
By amount brought forward from last account.....		16,362.85
By net earnings of steamers.....		65,006.17
By interest on investments.....		42,821.08
By transfer fees.....		112.00
		\$124,302.10

DEPRECIATION AND INSURANCE FUND.

31st Dec., 1904.	Dr.	\$ c.
To balance.....		600,000.00
30th Dec., 1904.	Cr.	\$ c.
By amount at credit.....		600,000.00
EQUALISATION OF DIVIDEND FUND.		
31st Dec., 1904.	Dr.	\$ c.
To balance.....		250,000.00
30th June, 1904.	Cr.	\$ c.
By amount at credit.....		250,000.00

THE SHANGHAI LAND INVESTMENT CO., LD.

Report of directors, for presentation at the sixteenth annual meeting of shareholders, to be held on Wednesday, the 15th February, 1905, at 4.30 o'clock p.m.

The directors have much pleasure in placing before the shareholders their sixteenth annual report, a report which shows what they cannot help thinking is a very satisfactory state of affairs in the working of the company.

The working account for 1904 shows a credit balance of Tls. 367,875.25 compared with Tls. 362,189.28 for the previous year.

The amount at credit of profit and loss account, after deducting the interim dividend of 6 per cent. is Tls. 331,794.95, which the directors recommend for appropriation as follows:—

To pay a final dividend of 6 per cent. on the capital (making 12 per cent. for the year).....	156,000.00
To pay a bonus of Tls. 2 per share.....	104,000.00
To transfer to reserve fund (being interest on undeveloped estates).....	28,813.05
To transfer to reserve fund for equalisation of dividends (making it up to Tls. 170,000).....	2,855.24
To carry forward to new account.....	40,066.66

There is little to say with regard to the Company's properties, except that they are all well let and that they have been kept in the usual good repair. The differences in the figure of the Capital Accounts are chiefly accounted for by the interest on undeveloped properties, with the following exceptions:—

Chwong Hoong Estate No. 2.—The increase in this Estate's Capital Account is due to the completion of payment for the buildings alluded to in last year's Report.

Jinke Estate No. 6.—A portion of this Estate was sold, as mentioned in last Report, and was paid for in June, 1904.

Hongkew Creek Estate No. 8.—The bunding of this Estate has been almost completed and roads have been laid out by arrangement with the Municipal Council. As soon as these roads and the bridging are completed, it is proposed to begin building on a small scale. There has been more delay than was expected in making the above arrangements and consequently it has been impossible to commence building as soon as it was hoped to do so.

Directors.—Sir Charles Dudgeon left for England in October last and was granted leave of absence. Mr. Hogg returned in December and resumed his seat at the Board. Mr. Kinneer resigned, on his approaching departure for home, and was replaced by Mr. McLeod. Sir Charles Dudgeon retires by rotation, but offers himself for re-election.

Auditor.—Mr. Wingrove was compelled to go to England in November on account of his health and the accounts have been audited by Mr. W. H. Anderson. Mr. Wingrove retires, but offers himself for re-election.

E. J. HOGG,
Chairman

BALANCE SHEET.

Assets.		Tls.
Dr.		
Estate No. 1.....		571,834.54
do. " 2.....		1,209,240.61
do. " 4.....		265,885.24
do. " 5.....		166,908.35
do. " 6.....		708,557.87
do. " 8.....		224,038.68
do. " 9.....		33,305.57
do. " 10.....		119,508.35
do. " 11.....		32,859.34
do. " 12.....		196,581.40
do. " 13.....		191,128.69
do. " 14.....		50,070.67
do. " 15.....		230,173.37
Cash due by agents.....		3,384.82
Sundry debtors.....		44,984.40
Cash in Hongkong & S'hai Bank.....		84,785.53
Sundry Mortgage Loans.....		1,765,940.92
		Tls. 5,899,188.35

LIABILITIES.

Cr.		Tls.
Capital Account.....		2,600,000.00
Debentures Bearing interest 6 per cent.		1,400,000.00
Debentures Bearing interest 5½ per cent.		250,000.00
Debentures Bearing interest 5 per cent.		350,000.00
Profit and Loss Account.....		331,794.95
Unclaimed Dividends.....		226.14
Sundry Creditors.....		82.50
Reserve Fund Account.....		800,000.00
Reserve Fund Special Account.....		167,144.76
		Tls. 5,899,188.35

THE SHANGHAI PULP AND PAPER CO., LD.

The report of the directors for presentation at the Annual Meeting of Shareholders to be held on Monday, the 27th of February, at Shanghai, reads:

The Directors have now to submit for the information of the Shareholders, the Annual statement of Accounts of the Company for the year ending December 31st 1904.

The Profit and Loss Account, including the balance Tls. 2,288.56, brought forward from last year shows a credit balance of Tls. 93,560.03.

During July an interim dividend of 6 per cent was declared, which has been paid.

New additions and repairs during the year 1904 amounting to Tls. 6,091.84 have been written off as well as Tls. 2,500.00 for depreciation; besides setting aside Tls. 15,000.00 for Reserve. From the balance, Tls. 42,968.19, to the credit of Profit and Loss, the Directors propose to pay a final dividend of 8 per cent, carrying forward Tls. 6,968.19 to New Account.

The Plant continues to be kept in perfect order.

The Mill has worked most satisfactorily for the year, showing an increase of Profit of Tls. 31,562.37 over the previous year.

Directors.—Mr. Ch. R. Wehrung, leaving for home, retired from the Board.

Auditor.—The Accounts have been audited by Mr. Geo. D. Scott, who offers himself for re-election.

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

For the Year ending 31st December, 1904

Dr.	Tls.	
Interim Dividend paid	27,000.00	
Plant Repairs	6,091.84	
Depreciation of Plant	2,500.00	
Reserve	15,000.00	
Balance	42,968.19	
		Tls. 93,560.03

Cr.	Tls.	Tls.
Balance from 1903	3,288.56	
Less Bonus	1,000.00	2,288.56
Profit for 1904		91,271.47
		Tls. 93,560.03

ASSETS.	Tls.
Mill Plant	364,422.79
Straw Mill Plant	26,472.70
Mill Dwellings	19,655.53
Accounts Receivable	15,737.52
Russo-Chinese Bank	54,634.58
Mill Stores	56,782.81
Pulp Stock in Drainers	4,366.84
Steam Launch	1,500.00
Unexpired Fire Insurance	2,257.70
Furniture and Fixtures	1,811.34
	Tls. 547,641.81

LIABILITIES.	Tls.
Capital Stock (4,500 Shares)	450,000.00
Reserve Account	25,000.00
Accounts Payable	29,673.62
Balance Profit and Loss Account	42,968.19
	Tls. 547,641.81

E. & O. E.

Shanghai 18th January, 1905.

C. E. Roach, Managing Director,

G. Racine,
Paul Brunat,
Chu Pao-san,
Directors.

Owing to the strong north-westerly gale on January 26th several steamers at Woosung dragged their anchors, and there were two rather nasty collisions. The British steamer *Jeseric* (3,114 tons), from New York, was in collision with the N.D. L. S. *Bayern*, and sustained some very bad dents on the starboard side, some of which caused slight leaks. She also lost an anchor and about sixty fathoms of cable. The *Bayern* escaped with a broken anchor. About the same time, reports our Shanghai contemporary, the British steamer *Powderham* got loose and fouled the Chinese cruiser *Haichi*. Grazing along the cruiser's port side she caused several small damages, and herself had her bulwark plates broken in several places.

HONGKONG BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of this Society was held in the City Hall on Feb. 7th. There were present: Sir H. S. Berkeley (Chairman), Hon. Mr. F. H. May, Hon. Mr. Gershom Stewart, His Lordship, the Rt. Rev. J. Hoare, Dr. Atkinson, Rev. J. H. France, Hon. Mr. E. H. Sharp and Messrs E. A. Hewett, H. H. J. Gompertz, G. Piercy, A. Milroy, W. H. T. Davis, G. Playfair, F. B. L. Bowley, H. J. Gedge, W. B. Dixon, J. Hastings, C. D. Melbourne and Mesdames May, Siebs, Gompertz, Atkinson, Badeley, Swan, Hickling, Hoare, Peter, Gershom Stewart, Hastings, Sharp, Ram, Gedge and Lady Berkeley.

ANNUAL REPORT.

Sir H. S. BERKELEY: Ladies and Gentlemen—we are met here this afternoon to constitute the fifteenth annual meeting of this most valuable Society, known as the Benevolent Society of Hongkong. The report has been drawn up by the Lady Secretary which I will now read:—

The Ladies of the Committee of the Hongkong Benevolent Society have much pleasure in submitting their annual report and statement of accounts, and in doing so desire to thank all those who have assisted them in carrying on the work of the Society. During the year 17 cases were brought under the consideration of the Committee and assistance was given in 14 cases. Over 60 other cases received relief through the Rev. J. H. France who gives invaluable assistance to the Society by investigating cases on its behalf and helping them when deserving. Employment was found in the Colony for some of the applicants and passages paid for others to various places where they had friends or promise of employment. It is pleasant to be able to record that in several cases grateful letters have been subsequently received from some of these persons. Monthly allowances have been made in some cases to poor and deserving people and in one case milk and medical comforts have been furnished to a deserving invalid. During the first 9 months of the year the Society was paying for the maintenance and education of ten orphan children at a cost of \$141.50 a month. As the income from subscriptions a month was only about \$50 the Society's funds became very low and it became necessary on May 31st to encroach upon our Fixed Deposit to curtail the sum at Mr. Francis' disposal from \$25 a month to \$15 and to issue an urgent appeal for more subscribers. The Autumn, two of our orphans obtained employment in the Colony as nurse maids and, as a result of our appeal to the public a few more monthly subscriptions were obtained. Otherwise we should have had to draw out all our Fixed Deposit and should have been in debt at the end of the year. As it is, writing at the end of January we have had, during the month, to draw out our remaining \$500 on Fixed Deposit to meet current expenses.

At present we spend on our 8 orphans per month \$101.50, and allow to Mr. France (a month) \$15, and to meet this, we have only 81 regular subscribers which brings in an account of \$81 a month. This obliges us to go into debt if we are to help any outside cases. The Committee therefore take this opportunity of a further urgent appeal for more regular subscribers of \$12 a year. With regard to the support of our orphans 4 of one family have been maintained at the Diocesan School for girls by the Society since 1901. Two of these left in Autumn and have obtained situations. We have partially supported another child at the same school since 1901. Since 1899 we have entirely supported another orphan first at Miss Johnstone's and afterward at the Diocesan School. The girl is now 16 and we may reasonably hope that she will be able to obtain some situation at the end of this year (1905). Since the beginning of 1902 we have supported two girls at the Italian Convent. We have partially supported a boy at St. Joseph's College since 1902. We partially support another orphan at Miss Johnstone's school. Except the girl of 16 before mentioned all these children are young and are likely to be on our hands for

several years. Details of the other 14 cases assisted during 1904 will be found on another page of the Report. Attention may be called to the fact that the Society has dealt with over 1,000 cases since its establishment in 1899. At the suggestion of the Society the Hongkong Government has written to the Commonwealth of Australia giving particulars of several cases in which the Australian wives of Chinese have been deserted, or otherwise ill treated by their husbands on return to China asking the Australian Government to warn young women against such marriages, as the husband has too often already contracted ties in his own country. During the year Mr. Turner, Miss Hunter and Lady Goodman left the Colony and their places on the Committee were taken by Mrs. Master, Mrs. Peter and Mrs. Badeley. In September, Mrs. Master resigned and her place was filled by Mrs. Gershom Stewart. Since Lady Goodman's departure and resignation of the Chair, which was much regretted by all the Committee, Mrs. May has kindly and most ably presided and Mrs. Atkinson has acted as Vice-President. Lady Goodman had been connected with the Society for many years and had acted as President for three years. Mrs. Bridie resigned her place on the Committee at our last meeting as she is leaving the Colony and Mrs. Robertson has consented to take her place. Mrs. Bridie was a most active and energetic member of the Committee and will be very greatly missed. The Rev. J. France returned to the Colony at the beginning of the year and resumed his old place on the Reference Committee relieving the Rev. T. Wright who had kindly acted for him while he was away. The following ladies retire in rotation from the Committee: Mrs. Hastings, Mrs. Hickling, Mrs. Siebs. Of these only the latter two offer themselves for re-election, as the Hon. Treasurer is leaving the Colony for a short time.

The CHAIRMAN then read a number of cases in which help had been administered by the Society, after which he continued: I must compliment the members of the committee upon the work they have done during last year. They have been very assiduous, and have done all that could be expected of them. From the report it appears that this society has an extremely small list of subscribers. It is quite astonishing to find that in a large and wealthy community like Hongkong the members of its Benevolent Society stop at 81. I cannot understand it, but think it can only mean that the fact of the existence of this society and the good work it does has been lost sight of. I call attention to the limited number of members in the hope and expectation that possibly if the particulars get made public it will draw larger numbers. The subscription is very small, only \$12 a year, and it is absolutely necessary if the society is to have any power of doing good, that the numbers of those who subscribe should be very materially increased. I hope, when the meeting gathers together again at the close of the current year, that the report will show a very large number of subscribers. It seems to me that the only reason why the work which has been done is not greater than it is, is the lack of money at the disposal of the Society.

Mr. HEWETT: In moving the adoption of the report and accounts, I can hardly say I have much pleasure in doing so, but very earnestly endorse all Sir Henry Berkeley's remarks with regard to the pressing need for a larger number of subscribers to the society in Hongkong. It seems incredible, when we come to think of it, that in a large wealthy place like Hongkong there are only 81 subscribers to the Benevolent Society. Probably this is on account of the annual subscription of \$12, which is a large sum to a number of Europeans in Hongkong. I presume I am right in supposing, and putting it on record, that the society would be very glad to receive donations, however small, from those who are unable to subscribe \$12. If such a proposal were agreed to, it would considerably increase the funds of the society. Another matter I would like to refer to is the question of marriages between white women and Chinamen. I am sorry to say that in many cases these marriages are followed by destitution and great distress. It is incumbent on us, living as we do in China, to lose no opportunity to discourage white

women contracting marriages with Chinamen.

The Hon. Mr. MAY seconded the motion, which was carried.

ELECTION OF COMMITTEE.

Lady Berkeley and Mesdames Barnes Lawrence, Hickling, Siebs and Piercey were elected to the committee for the ensuing year, with power to add to their number.

A CHARITABLE PROPOSAL.

SIR H. S. BERKELEY: The next question before us is a proposal by which the Benevolent Society may make itself still more useful than it has been able to do. The proposal is that the Benevolent Society should allow itself to be, as it were, an arbor of certain charitably disposed persons, who desire to relieve the necessities of persons, who, however undesirable, are here, and the report shows that they are unable to be prevented from coming here. That is the class of destitute persons, poor suffering people, deserving of help. The class that is most largely found here is that of sailor. As far as the man who is known among us as the "P.B.S." goes, he is proved for. The shipping master in every British port has to take charge of the man who is a distressed British seaman, and find him shelter as soon as he can; meantime he must provide him with board and lodging. The foreign sailor who lands here ought to be looked after by his Consul, but it appears that he is not. If properly discharged from his ship, the British Government also looks after him. Between most nations arrangements are made by which foreign distressed seamen discharged from a ship can be treated as distressed seamen and sent home at the cost of the place at which they are, which cost is refunded by the Government of which the man is a subject. Again, there is the class of people we call "waster." The object of this proposition is to give even these a chance, men who do not deserve it in a sense. The fund of the Benevolent Society has nothing to do with this proposition, neither will it be used in connection with it. The new scheme is a sort of limited liability charity insurance company, and anybody joining the society and giving a guarantee will, it is proposed, be permitted to ask the Benevolent Society to distribute the fund; to pay out so much a week or day to the Rev. Mr. France, who will undertake to devote the amount to the support of the person for whom it is intended. The suggestion is that the guarantee shall be limited to \$60 for a month. What you have to discuss this afternoon is whether you will sanction the Benevolent Society becoming the medium of an institution or charity of this description. Personally, when I first heard of this movement, I had a very strong objection to it, because I was under the impression that it was proposed to make the support of these persons a charge on the fund of the Benevolent Society, and saw many, many objections to anything of the sort taking place. I cannot see what possible objection can be raised to the society permitting itself to become the medium of relieving grief, and do not think the meeting need trouble itself one way or the other as to whether the person relieved is deserving or not. If I choose to relieve persons you know are not deserving why should not I? I am not doing anything wrong. If being unable myself to distribute that charge in the most effective way, what objection should anyone raise? We want subscribers not to withhold their consent to the society being made the place of distribution of charitable aid, by persons who are charitably disposed.

Hon. Mr. MAY: Sir Henry Berkeley, ladies and gentlemen—I beg to move the following resolution:—"That this Society will adopt the scheme for the dealing with deserving distressed seamen as set out in a letter from H.E. the Governor, under date 28th January, to the President of this society."

The scheme, sir, has a twofold object. The first is to enable the Society to deal effectively with a certain class of those who apply to it for assistance—the class of seamen. It is proposed that these cases should be investigated by competent authorities of the Sailors' Home, and assisted by those authorities. The second object, Sir, is to relieve the Society of the expense entailed by dealing with these cases, by inviting individual members of the society, or outsiders, to become guarantors for a guarantee fund. That is really the case in a nutshell

I may say at once, to relieve the minds of those who think that such a scheme will attract larger numbers to our shores than were coming here before, that the Governor has in contemplation fresh legislation to make it more difficult for destitutes to be dumped in Hongkong than it is at present (Hear, Hear). No doubt the existing laws are not stringent enough, but no matter how closely we weave the leashes, there will always be loopholes, and no doubt from time to time, cases will crop up. Where seamen are concerned, members of the Society will agree that they should be dealt with by authorities accustomed to deal with them. It therefore seems to me that the scheme is a good one as it assists the society in the two ways I have mentioned. I do not think there is any fear of it attracting more destitutes to our shores for the reason given, and cannot add anything more in support.

Mr. HEWETT: I understood before I came to the meeting that we were being purely called upon to express an opinion on the scheme of H.E. the Governor already published in the papers. I must confess when I heard your remarks, Sir, I was taken somewhat by surprise. I think, if a resolution is put forward, the same as I understand in your remarks, that the result will undoubtedly be that we shall have this undesirable class dumped on our shores. If the proposal be merely a call for a guarantee fund to help deserving seamen, I most heartily support it. I think myself that the Merchant Shipping Act and Vagrant Act form safeguards against the undesirable people thrown on our shores. I can unhesitatingly say that the number of cases of deserving seamen who come here is extremely small—possibly one in 100. Money spent on a deserving seaman is not wasted, and such a man, if he becomes destitute, ought to be supported. I beg to second the resolution.

Hon. Mr. GERSHOM STEWART: I think His Excellency is to be congratulated on having, by his letter, gained public opinion of the condition of affairs here. Gradually, in the course of time, there has risen up amongst us distress. Under municipal affairs this has increased of late rapidly, and the conditions of life between East and West are likely to make the increase greater in the future. This scheme, as proposed to us, seems to me to touch and impinge upon a very wide question. As explained to us, distressed British seamen are cared for by the Government. Landsmen by this scheme are not cared for at all. They are desirous of assistance when hungry as well as other men. The fund therefore resolves itself into a relief fund for foreign sailors. Without wishing to appear uncharitable, and referring to the old saying that "Charity begins at home," it is not unreasonable for this Colony to call upon each nation to support its own people when in distress. I am heartily glad to hear what Mr. May has said about legislation, but until we have details we are wandering in the dark. It seems to me that the community have reasonable cause of protest against shipping companies who bring these people here and against the Government who receive them. Hongkong has now lost the proud record of being a free port, and will view with great pleasure some further legislation in reference to the non-importation of undesirables here. A point which seemed to me rather overlooked is that the Sailors' Home, which is at present occupied by respectable and self-respected men, may run the chance, if kept by charity, of losing its present high position. Records show the conduct of the men who occupy it, and if we are going to thrust on it undesirable people, possibly the Sailors' Home may sink. As showing a glaring instance of the manner in which foreigners are thrust on the Colony, one of the employees on a United States Government ship which lately left here on being sick was brought ashore, and his Consul declined to assist him. His Lordship the Bishop, the Rev. Mr. France and others are endeavoring to do what they can to found a seamen resting house under the Church of England. I quite agree that it is very sad for deserving men to go into the House of Detention and be arrayed in prison garb. That might be amended, and the deserving man put on a different basis to the incorrigible idle vagrants thrown upon us. As a

temporary measure I will support this scheme, and am willing to guarantee lodgings for one man. If any country in the world ought to look after its own people, it is the United States of America. They have great resources, and it is only fair for us to call upon them to look after their destitute people. This society is entirely managed by ladies, and it does not appeal to me very much that they should be brought into the atmosphere of undesirables. This scheme I consider would be better managed by men.

HIS LORDSHIP, BISHOP HOARE: I do not know from the discussion this afternoon whether this scheme is to help deserving seamen or wasters. I must say I most heartily agree with what Mr. Stewart said about the scheme. I consider it good as a temporary measure, though a bad scheme if to be considered as a permanent measure. Two points in the scheme appear to me to be weak. The first is it does not discourage the importation of this class of people, but serves rather to encourage it. Mr. May said that legislation is in contemplation with a view to discouraging the dumping. For my own part, I should like to see what that legislation is before debating on the scheme. As far as I know there has only been one piece of legislation on the matter during the past seven years, which has greatly increased facilities for dumping. The second weak point to me is, to put upon individuals, a responsibility which ought to rest upon the whole community (Hear, Hear). I do not see why this matter should be treated simply as a matter of private charity anymore than the question of the unemployed at home. The point ought to be seriously dealt with by the Government. If not dealt with by Government, the present proposal cannot be anything more than a very temporary one. We may get many who will willingly guarantee now, but when it comes to run on year after year, you will find your guarantors diminish in numbers. Then again, with regard to people who are kindly undertaking to do the work. This is, so far as I understand, to be put upon the managers of the Sailors' Home and Mr. France. It is very kind of Mr. Milroy to do this when he is not paid to, and also very kind of Mr. France to say that he will do it. I confess that, for my own part, I am jealous at seeing Mr. France let in for so much of that kind of work. He is as hard worked a man as there is in the colony (applause). He came here to be a clergyman, not to be a sifter of cases of distressed seamen. I have heard it said that the Government cannot consider this matter as everything falls on the heads of departments and a new department would have to be formed. This is a matter concerning the whole of the colony, so why should the Government not make special departments if necessary? We have in Hongkong a functionary called a Protector of Chinese. I consider that the Chinese are very much more capable of protecting themselves than a European here, and it is not unreasonable to ask the Government to get a Protector of Britishers so that they should not be marched off to the House of Detention. The Chinese are not taken there, and why should our own countrymen be? At present we swarm with people who have been dumped, and I think we ought to rise to the occasion and put our hands in our pockets and do what we can to help, and therefore I will support entirely this society undertaking to carry out the scheme on one condition, and that is that it is a temporary measure until the Government takes the thing in hand. (Applause).

Hon. Mr. MAY: With regard to Mr. Stewart's remarks about the Sailors' Home being lowered in tone by the admission to it of foreign seamen, I should like to mention that about eight per cent of the inmates of the home are foreign seamen. I thought perhaps a distressed British seaman meant a Britisher, but it does not, it means a seaman discharged from a British ship. This scheme, so far, is purely a charitable one. I do not think the Government of Hongkong ever shirked a responsibility in the past, and do not think they are likely to do so under the present regime. If the evil grows so great that it requires to be taken in hand by a Government department, there is not the slightest doubt that it will be taken in hand.

At the present time it is merely a question of systematising the charitable work of this charitable society. If anything further remains to be done there is not the slightest doubt the Government will take it in hand.

HIS LORDSHIP THE BISHOP: I wish to add a rider to Mr. May's motion, only on the understanding that it is intended for a temporary measure and beg to move so as follows:—"that the meeting approve of the above scheme, only on the understanding that it is intended as a temporary measure adopted for a period not exceeding one year in order to give the Government time to organise a permanent system for meeting the difficulties referred to."

SIR H. S. BERKELEY: You want to make the Government a charity organisation society.

HON. MR. STEWART: I beg to second the motion, and at the same time should like to recommend the Benevolent Society to publish in the Directory the names of their reference committee. With regard to the remark about turning the Government into a charity organisation society, it is well to bear in mind that the Government of England have a Poor Law, and a man cannot starve in the country.

SIR H. S. BERKELEY: I think that in the discussion nearly all members wandered away from the real question before this meeting, which was whether or not the society should be entrusted with the distribution of funds made by charitable persons. It is not a question of whether or not charitable persons ought to provide for the wasters of the colony. The Government provides for the waster by the House of Detention, and also for the distressed seaman by the Merchant Shipping Act. This scheme has been founded whereby certain charitable people inquire of persons deserving relief, and through their agents distribute funds. In no civilised country in the world does the Government, properly so called, distribute charity. The meeting is not to decide whether this scheme is wise or foolish, simply to sanction the Benevolent Society being made the medium of relief to be provided by persons who have not necessarily anything to do with the society. The only objection to the scheme was the ladies of the committee being brought into contact with undesirable persons, but they will not be brought into contact with any such persons. There is no use of mincing matters. My view is this: this money is subscribed, not for what most of you here call a deserving sailor. Distressed seamen do not require it. The money subscribed is to be devoted to help men who some way or other got out of employment through their own fault; men who have no claim on the Shipping Master.

Hon. Mr. May's motion was carried, also the Bishop's, which he moved be added as a rider to Mr. May's.

H.E. the Governor has agreed to furnish the wherewithal to keep five destitute men, while the Hon. Mr. May, Hon. Mr. Stewart and Messrs Gedge and Looker have each promised to stand guarantor for one.

CORRESPONDENCE.

A GRUMBLE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

3rd February.

SIR,—Since the last occurrence of burglars visiting the Belilios Terrace in broad daylight which is still vivid in your readers' minds, I perceive that no notice has ever been taken by the Police to keep a strict vigilance in that locality.

It appears that yesterday evening between 7.30 and 8 o'clock a dead body was casually discovered by a servant living in one of those houses. Now, how could that dead body have been plumped just at the foot of the steps and allowed to remain there unnoticed by the police I am at a loss to understand.

The place which I allude to where the corpse was found is in a corner of the Lower Belilios Terrace, where the chair coolies stationed there frequently commit nuisances, another point to which attention should be paid.—Yours, &c., MICROBIO.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

AN EARNEST REQUEST.

DEAR SIR,—Will you be kind enough to permit me, through the medium of your columns, to call the attention of His Excellency the Governor to the ridiculously small number of days in the year observed as holidays here in contrast to those enjoyed by other Crown Colonies and settlements in the Far East generally. The regular annual holidays here may be briefly summarised on an average as follows:—

New Year Day	1
China New Year	2
Race Holidays *	1½
Good Friday	1
Easter Monday *	1
Whit Monday *	1
First " in August *	1
King's Birthday	1
Regatta Holidays *	1
Xmas Day	1
Boxing Day	1

I have not taken into account Saturday afternoons, which are utterly disregarded by a certain section of the mercantile community, and exist nominally with the rest, whilst occasionally, when such a day as China New Year for instance falls on a Saturday, as was the case this year, an extra day or two is thrown in, so that the actual number of days on which business is suspended may be roughly reckoned at 15 days or even less. This hardship is further accentuated by the Banks and Insurance Offices closing on half holidays such as Race or Regatta days at an hour which is too late to render the enjoyment of the holiday possible. If we compare the existing state of things here with conditions prevailing elsewhere it will be seen that, considering the flourishing condition the colony is in, and the importance it relatively holds, we are far behind the times. I would also respectfully point out to His Excellency that the present Holiday Ordinance was enacted as far back as 1875, that the conditions then and now will not bear any useful comparison, and that the time has come for the existing Ordinance to be so modified and amended as to allow for a larger number of days under less stringent conditions. — Yours, etc.,

HOLIDAY.

ARMED ROBBERY AT PO HING FONG.

An Hang, Ho Shing and Mak Sang were again placed before Mr. H. H. J. Gompertz at the Police Court on Feb. 8 to answer the charge of holding up the inmates of house No. 8 Po Hing Fong with offensive weapons, and robbing them of jewellery and clothing to the value of \$2,400, on the 30th January last. Chief Detective Inspector Hanson prosecuted.

An Chan, one of the amahs of the house, stated:—Defendant on entering the house, said they had come to repair the water pipe. The second defendant then said "Let us make a start." The second and third defendants each had a knife. One of the defendants said to the other amah and myself—"If you make a noise, I will chop you." The first defendant tied our hands behind us, and gagged us. While the first defendant gagged us, the other two went out of the kitchen. I was bound and gagged for about a quarter of an hour. The other two men then called out and the first defendant went away leaving us both gagged and bound. Immediately after they went away I left the kitchen, and with the other amah went to the stair door. We thought defendants were coming back, so held hard against the door. The people outside said they were Police, so we let them in. They brought back the defendants. I saw the second defendant at three o'clock that afternoon. He entered the house saying he had come to repair a waterpipe. While there, he asked the mistress where the master had gone. She said—"He has gone out." He then went away. After the men had gone on the night of the robbery, I missed a quantity of my jewellery. I found on entering my room, that everything was in a state of confusion.

Other witnesses corroborated the evidence of the last witness, and the case was adjourned.

HONGKONG CRICKETERS AT SWATOW.

The Hongkong cricketers on Feb. 8 returned from Swatow by the Douglas s.s. *Haiching*, after a very pleasant holiday. On arriving at Swatow on the 4th February the men landed and were put up at various private houses. After breakfast they changed and went to the cricket field. This was in the grounds, described as "an awfully nice place resembling on old country residence," of Mr. Richardson, the Taipan of Messrs. Bradley and Company's branch office. All the ladies of Swatow, a couple of dozen or so, turned out to watch the game. Besides "the usual" refreshments, tea was served on the field at half past four. Play concluded somewhere about five o'clock. After dinner some of the visitors played bowls at the Kialat Club, while others were entertained by their various hosts.

There was a tennis (doubles) tournament on Feb. 5th, and this ended in a win for Messrs. Hancock and Butcher. Those who were not occupied at the tennis courts went out shooting to a place called Sun Lai. The bag was small and mixed. Everyone knocked down a goose, but many were lost.

On Feb. 6th the return match was played. It resulted as follows:—

HONGKONG.

G. E. Morrell, not out	100
W. Dixon, b Bevington	2
A. Mackenzie, b Bevington	5
N. H. Rutherford, c Somerville, b Butcher	14
H. Hancock, b Butcher	8
R. R. Horley, R.N., st Willis, b Hilliard	32
J. Rodgers, c and b Butcher	4
A. C. Butt, R.M.L.I., not out	22
Extras	11

Total (for 6 wickets) 198

(Innings declared closed.)

T. C. Gray, G. P. Lammert and A. O. Brawn did not bat.

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Hilliard	14	2	43	1
Bevington	12	—	47	2
Butcher	12	—	64	3
Sullivan	5	—	15	—
Macgowan	1	—	6	—
Harrison	2	—	5	—
Currie	1	—	7	—

SWATOW.

Sullivan, c Dixon, b Rutherford	8
Harrison, run out	7
Brackstone, c Gray, b Hancock	0
Anderson, c Brawn, b Mackenzie	14
Pegge, b Rutherford	0
Bevington, b Rutherford	0
Willis, c Hancock, b Rutherford	3
Currie, hit wkt., b Hancock	0
Hilliard, c Hancock, b Rutherford	1
Macgowan, run out	4
Wallace, b Lammert	8
Somerville, c Brawn, b Hancock	2
Dupree, not out	10
Young, b Mackenzie	0
Butcher, b Mackenzie	0
Extras	16

Total 73

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
H. Hancock	13	2	30	3
N. H. Rutherford	9	4	14	5
G. P. Lammert	4	2	6	1
G. E. Morrell	3	2	2	—
A. Mackenzie	3	1	5	3

Umpires:—Mr. Frank Smith (Swatow) and Mr. J. W. C. Bonnar (H.K.)

The cricketers dined at the Junior Customs' Club, where a very jolly evening was spent. There was afterwards a concert at which some of the Hongkong men, including Mr. G. P. Lammert whose singing was particularly appreciated, contributed. Numerous speeches were made.

The first part of Tuesday was spent "recovering," and the steamer left for Hongkong at four o'clock in the afternoon.

BELCHERS FORT CAPTURED.

The talk of 9th Feb. was the capture of Belchers Fort. It was taken, during the annual mobilization manoeuvres, by the attacking party in the early morning. A torpedo boat steamer into harbour as bold as a red light could make it, and the defenders' searchlights flashed on it in an instant. The enemy, in the meantime, quietly pulled their boats to the beach under the cover of the temporarily uninterrupted darkness, and before the military knew where they were, bluejackets surrounded the heights and demanded surrender.

Another party of bluejackets landed at Blue Buildings to capture the Major-General, but, by the rules of the game, they failed in their project. Other fighting was carried out at the different parts of the Island. The military have not had such a general turn-out for a long time. Even the Army Ordnance men were required to be ready, asleep in their offices, so as to be ready if more ammunition was required. The dark hours were wet and chilly, and the regulars, to say nothing about the Volunteers, felt that two blankets would have been better than one. They warmed themselves round their camp fires, where they made their stew or warmed up bully beef. As they stumbled over tent pegs, rocks and brambles, more than one whispered softly that this would be disagreeable work under arms! The attacking party consisted of a naval force and 90 native troops taken out to sea in the *Andromeda*, *Hogue*, *Iphigenia*, and *Astrea*. The *Andromeda* landed a party of men near Aberdeen. The Indian troops and naval force, forming the attacking party were commanded by Vice-Admiral Sir Gerard Noel, who used the *Atacrity* as his flagship. The defensive tactics were under Colonel Western, Royal West Kents, while Major-General Villiers Hatton was at headquarters throughout the night. The umpires decided in favour of the attacking party, and the Admiral signalled congratulations to his men.

FLEET BOXING.

The Navy and Army were well represented in the large hall of the Kowloon Dockyard on 9th inst. to witness the opening bouts in the China Fleet boxing championships. Captain Sheldford of H.M.S. *Glory* acted as referee. Lt. Hellett of H.M.S. *Albion* and Mr. Logan acted as judges and Engineer Sub-Lt. Bodell was timekeeper. There were two, two minute, and one three minute rounds. The following were the results:—

Bantam:—Sutcliffe of the *Tamar* beat Adams of the *Glory*; Wilks of the *Glory* beat Whitehouse of the *Glory*.

Light:—Parker of the *Albion* beat O'Shea of the *Ocean* on a foul; Clark of the *Glory* beat Colin of the *Albion*; Beils of the *Albion* beat Huckle of the *Ocean*; Cursen of the *Glory* beat Lovatt of the *Sutlej*; Liddle of the *Sutlej* beat Blake of the *Astrea*; Wade of the *Hogue* and Clark of the *Glory* boxed byes. Parker and Cameron, both of the *Albion*, boxed two rounds, but owing to the electric light failing, the final round was postponed until this evening.

Feather:—Walker of the *Sutlej* beat Gill of the *Glory*; Eglington of the *Glory* beat Blakeley of the *Ocean*.

Middle:—McDonald of the *Albion* beat Ross of the *Glory*.

The contest will be continued this evening.

FATAL ACCIDENT ON THE "OCEAN"

A fatal accident occurred on H.M.S. *Ocean* on the 8th February. A young able seaman, S. Rowlands, while engaged in hoisting a twelve-inch shell from a lighter alongside had his legs badly crushed. The man was removed to hospital where the right leg was amputated and the left set. The operation proved too much, however, and the poor fellow died during the night. He was buried with naval honours at Happy Valley.

It is said that deceased was the last surviving son of his mother, who lives at Liverpool, and that the poor widow had recently taken steps to secure his discharge from the Navy.

FIRE ON THE S.S. "SHAHZADA."

CHIEF OFFICER SUFFOCATED.

A fire occurred on board the s.s. *Shahzada*, at Kowloon Docks, on the 9th February. At three o'clock the second officer was awakened by a noise. Jumping out of his bunk and hurrying on deck he found smoke coming from No. 3 hold. The chief officer, Mr. William Laird, was just going down the ladder to the 'tween decks. The second officer advised him not to go down without a life-line but he persisted. In the meanwhile the dock people got to work with their hoses. Some of them went into the 'tween decks in search of the chief officer, but they could not find him. At about a quarter to four, when the fire was well under control and the smoke had cleared away somewhat, the second officer went into the lower hold and found the chief officer lying down motionless. He tied a rope about the body and told those on deck to haul up. Artificial respiration was then resorted to and continued for an hour and a half after the arrival of Dr. Macfarlane, at about a quarter past five. The doctor, finally, declared life to be extinct. Deceased was 45 years of age.

The *Shahzada* was not damaged to any extent by the fire. It appears that from ten to twenty tilters were working on board, and one of them may have dropped a lighted match, thus igniting matting and dunnage wood. The ship was not insured. She was recently purchased from Chinese by Mr Carmichael, of Messrs. Carmichael and Clarke.

HOW TO BECOME A SANITARY INSPECTOR.

The Hongkong Sanitary Institute is arranging a course of lectures on Food Inspection, the first of which will be delivered on Friday evening, 10th instant, by Mr. A. Gibson, M.R.C.V.S., on the Hygiene of Cowsheds, Abattoirs Markets, Dairies, and Food Shops, from a Public Health point of view. The lecture room is at No. 10, Wyndham Street, the hour nine sharp.

Subsequent lectures will be given each Tuesday and Friday evening, by Mr. Gibson (ten more) Captain Fitzwilliams, A.S.C., (three) and Dr. Clark, M.O.H., who will deal with the legal aspects of the matter. There are also to be object lessons in the actual places visited by Sanitary Inspectors, of which Mr. Alfred Carter, Senior Inspector, will supply particulars, to all inquirers. The fee is a very moderate one, and time-expired soldiers and others desiring to enter Government employment will certainly find these lectures and introductions helpful.

DEATH OF AN OLD CHINA HAND.

Few sea-faring men are better known along the China coast, from Hongkong to Tientsin, than was Mr. James Kirkwood, first engineer of the Chinese revenue cruiser *Chuen Tiao*, whose death is recorded among our obituary announcements this morning. A telegram received by Messrs. Lane, Crawford & Co., states that Mr. Kirkwood died at Chinkiang on the 5th inst. Originally he was in the service of the Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co. as an engineer, and he joined the Imperial Maritime Customs service in 1872, nearly thirty-three years ago. He had held the rank of first engineer since 1876. When Admiral Lang undertook the organisation of a Chinese Navy, the Inspector-General of Customs lent Mr. Kirkwood to assist, and in the early 'Eighties he was stationed at Weihaiwei and Port Arthur with the rank of Engineer-in-Chief to the Peiyang Squadron, which the Japanese destroyed in 1895. Mr. Kirkwood was an active Mason, being an old member of Zetland and St. John's Lodges in Hongkong, and one of the founders of the Eastern Scotia Lodge here and the Saloon Lodge at Shanghai. Mr. Kirkwood, who was 58 years of age, was a widower, his wife having died fourteen years ago, and he leaves a family of three children, two girls and a boy, who are living at Kilmarnock, Scotland.

ROYAL HONGKONG GOLF CLUB.

The following cards were returned at the monthly meeting held at Happy Valley from the 4th to the 6th February, 1905:—

CAPTAIN'S CUP.			
Mr. T. S. Forrest	70	+	2 = 72
Mr. J. Johnstone	83	—	5 = 78
Capt. Nugent, R.A.	87	—	7 = 80
Dr. Dartnell, R.N.	96	—	16 = 80
Major Pedley	85	—	3 = 82

27 entries.

POOL.			
Mr. T. S. Forrest	70	+	2 = 72
Mr. J. Johnstone	83	—	3 = 78
Dr. Dartnell, R.N.	96	—	16 = 80

15 entries.

Mr. Forrest's score is a record for the course. The following are the details:—

544433534 = 35
444435434 = 35

MISCELLANEOUS.

A *Cablenews* comment runs:—The naval governor of Guam says the inhabitants of that island are dirty, gentle and religious. They evidently have enough missionaries and what they need now is a good, hustling soap agent.

By the courtesy of Mr. Alfred E. Jessup, in charge of the Imperial Chinese Mint, the *China Review* was able to give the following details of the work done for the year 1904:—From Jan. 1, 1904 to Jan. 1, 1905. Silver dollars coined, 1,405,017 pieces, Twenty cash, copper, 3,997,710 pieces, Ten cash, copper, 81,946,060 pieces, One cash, brass, 1,077,120 pieces, 8.20 cash, \$1.

A gloom has been cast over Hankow by the death there, from typhoid fever, of Mr. A. E. Hobbins, of Messrs. Butterfield & Swire. The *N. C. Daily News* says he was only recently transferred to Hankow from Shanghai, where he was a very popular member of the Light Horse, and was generally very much liked by all who knew him, his unfailing good humour making him very welcome wherever he went.

The Shanghai Taotai received on Jan. 20th a despatch from H.E. Viceroy Chou Fu, at Nanking, informing him that instructions have been received from the Waiwupu, in deference to the request of the Japanese Government, to prohibit, for the present, Chinese merchant vessels (steamers and sea-going junks) from going to Port Arthur to trade. The Shanghai Taotai was also instructed to communicate with the Commissioner of Customs requesting the latter to see that this prohibition is obeyed.

A Shanghai resident writing to the *Daily News* says "Noting the prevalence of this disease (smallpox) in Shanghai it is natural that the Municipal Council should take every precaution against it. There is one precaution, however, that seems to entirely escape their notice. I refer to the rickshas. It is impossible for a European to gain an idea of their cleanliness when we only have the black seat and surroundings presented to our view. Far away Peking and Tientsin have insisted upon their rickshas being covered with white to enable any one at a glance to see any trace of dirt. Why should not Shanghai enforce the same?—And, may we add, why not Hongkong also?"

As announced in our advertisement columns the Nippon Yusen Kaisha has accepted the agency of the great Northern Steamship Company in China and Japan, the first steamer of the new line, the *Minnesota*, is due here on the 25th inst. The steamer is described as one of the largest freight carriers in the world, and is magnificently appointed for the accommodation of 250 first cabin, 68 intermediate and a large number of steerage passengers. The steamer is commanded by Captain J. H. Rinder, well known in the trans-Pacific trade as Master of the O. & O. Company's s.s. *Belgic* and *Coptic*. The general offices of the Great Northern Steamship Co. are at Seattle, and the steamer runs between that port and Hongkong, calling at Yokohama, Kobe, Nagasaki, Shanghai and Manila. The general traffic manager is Mr. Geo. Sutherland, well-known in the East as the former manager for the China Mutual Steam Navigation Co. at Shanghai. Mr. Sutherland intends returning to the Orient shortly on a business tour.

COMMERCIAL.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 10th Feb.—The prices are going upward, holders being firm.

Shekloong, No. 1, White.....	\$8.85 to \$8.95	pols.
Do. " 2, White.....	7.85 to 7.95	"
Do. " 1, Brown.....	6.70 to 6.75	"
Do. " 2, Brown.....	6.15 to 6.25	"
Swatow, No. 1, White.....	8.75 to 8.85	"
Do. " 2, White.....	7.75 to 7.85	"
Do. " 1, Brown.....	6.25 to 6.30	"
Do. " 2, Brown.....	6.10 to 6.15	"
Foochow Sugar Candy.....	13.00 to 13.15	"
Shekloong ".....	11.05 to 11.15	"

RICE.

HONGKONG, 10th Feb.—The position of the market is nearly the same as when last reported.

Saigon, Ordinary.....	\$2.25 to \$2.30
" Round, good quality.....	3.35 to 3.90
" Long.....	3.95 to 4.00
Siam, Field mill cleaned, No. 2.....	2.60 to 2.65
" Garden, " No. 1.....	2.75 to 2.80
" White.....	4.05 to 4.10
" Fine Cargo.....	4.30 to 4.35

COAL.

Messrs. Hughes and Hough, in their coal report of to-day's date, state that fourteen steamers are expected at Hongkong with a total of 52,800 tons of Japan coal and 8,500 tons of Cardiff. Since 25th January 35,600 tons of Japan coal and 26,000 tons of Cardiff coal have arrived, all sold. The market is quiet. Quotations:—

Cardiff.....	\$18.00 ex-ship.
Australian.....	\$11.00 ex-ship.
Yubari Lump.....	\$12.00 ex-ship, nominal
Miki Lump.....	\$10.00 ex-ship, nominal
Moji Lump.....	\$6.50 to 10.00 ex-ship, steady

YARN.

Mr. Eduljee in his report, dated Hongkong, 10th February, says:—The New Year festivities are in full swing in the interior, and no country-buyers have returned to market, but the few sales reported below may be considered as "Complimentary" purchases by our local dealers, and being at irregular rates are no indication of the market. The outlook, however, is far from encouraging and in repeating late quotations we must advise that they are entirely nominal. Stocks are by no means excessive, but at an early date heavy addition of cheaper goods is expected to be made thereto, and spinners in Bombay are pressing for orders.

Local Manufacture:—Continues quiet.

Japanese Spinnings:—Nothing doing.

Raw Cotton:—The market has become lifeless, and notwithstanding a concession in rates of \$1 to \$2 per picul, no great business could be induced, and small parcels, aggregating 280 bales superfine Bengal, are reported to have changed hands at \$23 to \$21. China kinds are quiet. Stocks 4,500 bales Indian, and 1,200 bales China. We quote to-day Bengal \$18 to \$22, China \$19 to \$23.

Exchange on India has continued to decline in sympathy with barsiliver, and at the close shows a loss of 3½ points. To-day's quotations, are: Rs. 146 for T/T, and Rs. 146½ for Post. On Shanghai nominal, and on Yokohama 96.

The undernoted business in imported and local spinning is reported from Shanghai during the fortnight ended the 28th ultimo, viz:—

Indian:—The near approach of the China New Year does not appear to have any perceptible effect on the market, and sales of nearly 9,500 bales are reported at somewhat easier rates. The unsold stock was estimated at 35,000 bales.

Japanese:—The market is slightly firmer and sales of 2,000 bales are reported, No. 16s fetching Tls. 87 to 97½ and No. 20s Tls. 92 to 100.

Local:—Small sales of about 1,500 bales are reported on the basis of Tls 83 to 84 for No. 10s, and Tls. 80 to 84½ for No. 12s, Tls. 81 to 87 for No. 14s, and Tls. 85½ to 81 for No. 16s.

PIECE GOODS.

Messrs. Noel, Murray & Co., in their report on the Shanghai Piece Goods Trade, dated Shanghai 2nd February, states:—What, it is hoped, will be the final struggle for supremacy in the North has commenced in earnest, and few people out here entertain any doubt as to what the result will be. The preliminary engagements so far reported indicate the fearful carnage that is bound to take place, and by the close of this week, or at all events just within the twelve months after the outbreak of hostilities, probably

what will prove to be the deciding battle will have been fought and won. The natives here have not, and really never had, the slightest doubt as to what will be the outcome, and although now busy with preparations for their annual festivities, and not prepared to enter into fresh contracts with importers, have found time to turn over a considerable quantity of their forward purchases to eager buyers for the North, more particularly Newchwang. It is these markets that will show most activity in the near future, and it is pretty certain that a very large proportion of the goods shipped up last year were for military purposes, and not to supply the ordinary consumptive demands of the country. To all appearances the year is closing (to-morrow) satisfactorily to the great majority of these engaged in this trade. That they have the command of almost unlimited supplies of money has been amply demonstrated during the last week or so by their eagerness to take advantage of the favourable rates of exchange ruling, not only to pay for goods already due, but to discount bills against those not yet arrived! If the home markets will only abstain from supplying any low cost goods for three or four months, as there seems every prospect of their so doing, there should be no anxiety about the future, heavy as the immediate supplies promise to be, as exchange must now have been settled against the bulk of the purchases to come forward a decline in the rates here to say 2s. 6d. would be very beneficial. The country merchants would then come in with a rush to buy. The Manchester market is a little uncertain, and there is some reason to fear may play us false. Not perhaps the standard markers, but there are so many Mills that could with advantage turn their attention to the wants out here if there was any encouragement. Canton however seems to have a slightly firmer tendency, the last Liverpool quotation for Mid-American being 3.78d., but subsequent telegrams from New York quote 7.08 cents for April. For Egyptian there is a decline of ½d. to ¾d. The New York market keeps very firm, the latest quotations for moderate quantities for March to May shipment being:—for 2.85 yard Sheetings 10s. 11d., 3 yard 10s. 1d. to 10s. 3½d., 3.25 yard 9s. 5d. to 9s. 7d. and 3.50 yard 8s. 10d., and the real strength is shown by the addition of the sentence "later shipments on the same basis." The total figures for the January Export from Manchester are not yet in, but for the fortnight ending 27th ult. they amounted to 33,000,000 yards of Plain Cottons. Re-Exports to Chefoo, 1904.—The usual annual comparative Table, again exhibits the gradual shrinkage of the trade, so far as this Port is concerned. This is naturally due to the better facilities Tsintau enjoys for catering to the requirements of the Province of Shantung, and which must increase now the Railway communicating with the chief inland cities is completed. Grey Shirtings held their own fairly well, but T.-Cloths, White Shirtings, American Drills, Jeans and Sheetings all show a serious falling off, as do Prints, Turkey Reds and other Dancy Dyed goods. How far this is made up by any increase in the off-take of Kioochou will be shown by the figures for that Port which will be published next week. Piece Goods.—Business from first hands has again been very limited, neither are so many resales of Manchester goods reported. To-morrow being the last day of the Native year it was thought advisable to dispense with the Yuen-Fong Auction to-day. A small sale took place at Ewo yesterday at which there was no change of any importance. Cottons on the whole were fairly steady, and Camlets and Long Ells were mostly firmer. Privately a small business has been done in fine White Shirtings both from stock and to arrive, but it does not amount to much. In Fancy Goods a retail demand is met with occasionally for specialties, but nothing of importance has transpired. For American goods there is quite a good demand for the North via Chinwangtao, and orders having been received for shipment immediately after China New Year, a fair quantity have been bought in readiness, comprising:—5,000 bales Sheetings Tls. 4.80 to Tls. 4.90 for 2.85 yard, Tls. 4.75 for 3 yard, and 4.30 for 3.25 yard, and 1,000 bales 30 yard Beayer Jeans at Tls. 3.75, also Drills at 4.50 for Massachusettes, and Tls. 4.80 for Pepperells. It is reported the last named are selling in Newchwang at Tls. 8.00, which, taking the difference in Exchange, freight, and transport, is equal to about Tls. 5.50 here.

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

Per M.M. steamer Ernest Simons, sailed on the 7th February, For Marseilles:—100 bales waste silk, 18 bales human hair, 1 case silk piece goods, 5 cases ylang ylang oil, 1 case hats, 1 package tea, 1 case provisions.

HANKOW, February 1st, 1905.—The prices quoted are for the net shipping weight excluding cost of packing for export:—

	Per picul.
Cowhides, Best Selected.....	Tls. 85.00
Do. Seconds.....	81.00
Buffalo hides, Best Selected.....	18.50
Goatskins, Untanned, chiefly white color.....	56.00
Buffalo Horns, average 3-lbs. each.....	9.00
White China Grass, Wuchang and/or Poochi.....	11.75
Green China Grass, Szechuen.....	10.50
White Vegetable Tallow, Kinchow.....	9.80
White Vegetable Tallow, Pingchow and/or Macheng.....	9.60
White Vegetable Tallow, Mongyu.....	8.25
Green Vegetable Tallow, Kiyu.....	11.00
Animal Tallow.....	10.00
Gallnuts, Usual shape.....	17.00
Do. Plum do.....	18.00
Black Bristles.....	(nom.)
Feathers, Grey and/or White Duck.....	21.00
" " " Wild Duck.....	25.00
Turmeric.....	3.00
Sesamum Seed.....	4.00
Sesamum Seed Oil.....	7.90
Vegetable Tallow Seed-Oil.....	7.90
Wood Oil.....	7.80
Tea Oil.....	9.00

SHARE REPORTS.

HONGKONG, 10th February, 1905.—There has been no apparent change in the general condition of our market since the re-opening after the Chinese New Year holidays, and though rates close fairly steady, there are few fresh transactions to report for the interval under review. Money still continues tight, rendering it difficult to finance new business, whilst on the other hand the rates now ruling are in many cases too low to tempt holders to sell.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have been imported from the North at \$715, the local rate closing steady at \$720 with probable small buyers. London is unchanged at £75. There is no change to report in Nationals.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Unions are unchanged with sellers at \$69½. Cantons are procurable at \$260, and China Traders at \$58½. North Chinas continue on offer at Tls. 95.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Chinas have again been booked at \$93, and Hongkongs at \$340, the latter closing with probable buyers.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao are firmer with sales and further buyers at \$26. Indo-Chinas have been booked at \$124 and \$125 closing steady at the latter rate, whilst Shanghai wires Tls. 90 buyers. Douglasses have been booked at \$34 and \$33½, and more shares are wanted at the latter rate. China and Manila, Star Ferries, and Shell Transports are unchanged and without business.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have improved to \$227 with sales and probable buyers. Luzns continue in request at \$22½.

MINING.—Raub has sold, and have further sellers at \$3½.

DOCKS, WHARVES, AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks, after sales at \$208 have improved to \$210 with small buyers. Hongkong and Kowloon Wharves are easier with sellers at \$104 old, \$101 new. Shanghai and Hongkew Wharves, which we now add to our list, are wanted in the North at Tls. 135 (old) and Tls. 132½ (new). Farnhams are in request at Tls. 150.

LANDS, HOTELS, AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands continue on offer at \$134, and West Points at \$57. Kowloon Lands can be placed at \$37, and Shanghai Lands at Tls. 116. Hongkong Hotels have been booked at \$141 closing steady. Humphreys' Estates have been booked at \$12.10 ex the dividend of 90 cents per share for 1904 paid to-day, and more shares are procurable.

COTTON MILLS.—Ewos have declined to Tls. 23. Hongkongs close steady with a small sale reported at \$13.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Green Island Cements have sold, and more shares are wanted at \$28½. Electricities have been booked at \$15½ for the old and \$9½ for the new, and more shares are procurable. Ices are firm at \$255 buyers. Powells are easier at \$12½ sellers.

MEMOS:—Hongkong, Canton, and Macao Steamboat Co., Ltd., ordinary half-yearly meeting on the 14th instant. Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co., Ltd., ordinary yearly meeting on the 20th instant. Hongkong Ice Co., Ltd.,

ordinary yearly meeting on the 13th instant. Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation ordinary half-yearly meeting on the 18th instant. China Fire Insurance Co., Ltd., ordinary yearly meeting on the 9th March. Transfer books close on the 24th instant to the 9th proximo inclusive. Hongkong Fire Insurance Co., Ltd., ordinary yearly meeting on the 6th March. Transfer books close on the 20th instant to the 6th March inclusive.

Closing quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Banks—		
Hongkong & S'hai...	\$125	(\$720, buyers { L'don, £75.
Natl. Bank of China		
A. Shares	28	\$38
B. Shares	28	\$38
Foun. Shares....	21	\$10
Insurance—		
Union	\$100	\$700, sellers.
China Traders	\$25	\$584
North China.....	25	Tls. 95, sellers
Yangtze.....	\$60	\$160
Canton.....	\$50	\$260
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$340
China Fire	\$20	\$93, sales
Steamship Coys.—		
H., Canton and M...	\$15	\$26, sales&buyers
Indo-China S. N. ...	\$10	\$125
China and Manila....	\$30	\$23
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$334, buyers
Star Ferry.....	\$10	\$38, sellers
.....	\$5	\$29, sellers
Shell Transport and		
Trading Co.....	\$1	22/-
Do. pref. shares.....	\$10	\$3. 10s.
Refineries—		
China Sugar	\$100	\$227
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$224, buyers
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 250	\$490
Baubs	18/10d.	\$34, buyers
Docks, Etc.—		
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$210, buyers
H. & K. Wharf & G...	\$50	(\$104, old sellers { \$101, new sel.
New Amoy Dock ...	\$61	\$27, sellers
S. C. F. Boyd & Co...	Tls. 100	Tls. 150, buyers
S'hai and Hongkew }	Tls. 100	Tls. 135, buyers
Wharf Co., Ltd. }		Tls. 1324, buyers
Land and Building—		
Hongkong Land Inv.	\$100	\$134, ex div., sales
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$37, buyers
West Point Building	\$50	\$57
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$141, sellers
.....	\$10	\$12.00, ex div.,
Humphreys Estate. }	\$24	{ sellers
S'hai Land Ins. Co. Ld.	Tls. 50	Tls. 116, buyers
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 50	Tls. 23
International.....	Tls. 75	Tls. 24
Laou Kung Mow ...	Tls. 100	Tls. 30
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 150, sellers
Hongkong	\$10	\$13, sales
Companies—		
Alhambra Limited...	\$200	\$100, buyers
Bell's Asbestos E. A...	12/6	\$54
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$40, sellers
China-Borneo Co., Ld.	\$12	\$15, sellers
China Prov. L. & M...	\$10	\$84, sellers
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$12, buyers
Geo. Fenwick & Co.	\$25	\$43, sellers
Green Island Cement.	\$10	\$284, sales&buyers
Hongkong Electric }	\$10	{ \$154, sales&sel es
.....	\$5	\$94, sales
Hongkong & C. Gas...	\$10	\$160, buyers
H. H. L. Tramways...	\$100	\$265
Hongkong Ice	\$25	\$255, sales
Hongkong Rope.....	\$50	\$155, sellers
Hk. Steam Water- }	\$10	{ \$20, sellers
Boat Co., Ld. }		
Phippine Tobacco }	\$10	{ \$94, sellers
Trust Co., Ld. }		
Shanghai and Hong- }	\$50	{ \$50
kong Dyeing and }		
Cleaning Co., Ld. }		
S. C. Morning Post ...	\$25	\$22
China Light & Power }	\$10	{ \$94, sellers
Co., Ld. }		
Steam Laundry Co., }	\$5	{ \$7, buyers
.....	\$3	\$4, buyers
United Asbestos	\$4	\$94
Do.....	\$10	\$180
Watkins, Ld	\$10	\$9, sellers
.....	\$10	\$124, sales
Watson & Co., A. S. }	\$10	{ \$12, buyers
William Powell, Ld....	\$10	\$124, sellers

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

Messrs. J. P. Bisset and Co.'s Share Report for the week ending February 2nd, 1905, states:—The settlement for January passed off satisfactorily on the 30th ult. Since that we have only to report a very limited business, rates all round remaining steady. The Chinese New Year holidays begin from to-morrow and we look for almost a complete cessation during the next ten days. The T.T. rate on London is 2/84. Banks.—Hongkong and Shanghai Bank. A local transaction is reported at \$715 ex 704. Marine and Fire Insurance.—The only business reported is in Yangtzes \$160, at which rate there are buyers. Shipping.—Indo-Chinas have been placed at Tls. 884 for cash and 914 and 92 for March. We look for higher rates for these shortly, as we hear the company have had a very good year. Docks and Wharves.—S. C. Farnham, Boyd & Co., Ld., have been placed at Tls. 152 and 1524 and 151 for cash. On the 31st a transaction was reported at Tls. 155, but this was a case of covering for the January settlement, and is in excess of the market rate. Transactions have been reported at Tls. 156, 158 for March, and 161 for April; later at Tls. 1584 for March and 160 for April. The market closes quieter with sellers for forward months on the basis of the cash quotation, which we make to day Tls. 153. It is rumoured that a final meeting regarding the flotation of the company was to have been held at home on 31st ult. Up to the moment of writing we have no news of the meeting, but there is barely time for news to reach this. Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf Co. The market for these is stronger. Business has been done for old shares c.n.i. at Tls. 155 and 160 for March. A transaction for new shares only is reported at Tls. 133. This is equivalent to old cum new at Tls. 155. Sugars.—A transaction in Peraks is reported at Tls. 54. Mining.—Weihaiwei Golds have been dealt in at \$3. Reconstruction of this company we believe is certain. Lands.—Shanghai Land Investment Co. The Company have issued their yearly report to December 31st, 1904. They propose to pay a final dividend of 6 per cent. making 12 per cent. for the year; paying a bonus of Tls. 2 per share; transfer to Reserve Fund (being interest on undeveloped Estates) Tls. 28,813.05; transfer to Reserve Fund for equalisation of dividends Tls. 2,855.24. This fund will then stand at Tls. 170,000. and carrying forward to a new account Tls. 40,066.66. This we regard as a very satisfactory statement. Industrial.—The only business in Cottons is a sale of Ewos at Tls. 23. Shanghai Ices have been placed at Tls. 20. Paper and Pulp at Tls. 155 and Shanghai Gas at Tls. 105. Maatschappij, etc. in Langkats. The market for these has improved; the opening price for these shares was Tls. 270 for cash with sales for March at Tls. 285. The cash rate has advanced to Tls. 2774 with sales yesterday for March at Tls. 285 and April Tls. 290. The directors have issued a statement of accounts to 31st October, 1904. The company have paid dividends on capital for the year of 48 per cent. They have placed at reserve Tls. 193,540.55, and have written off Various, Tls. 150,000. The Reserve Fund now stands at Tls. 528,210.38. Only the trifling balance of Tls. 19,289.62 further is necessary to this account to comply with the statutes of the Company. Sumatras have been placed at Tls. 67. Stores & Hotels.—Hall and Holtz have been placed at \$214 and 21. Hotel des Colonies have been placed for April at Tls. 204 and 214 for June. Astor House have changed hands at \$27. Central Hotel (new shares) at \$64. Moutries at \$55. Miscellaneous.—Telephones have been placed at 68 and Horse Bazaars at Tls. 88. Loans & Debentures.—8 per cent. Astor House have changed hands a 4 per cent. premium. Waterworks 6 per cent. Debentures at Tls. 94 and 924; and Gas 6 per cent. at Tls. 924.

EXCHANGE.

FRIDAY, 10th February.

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	1/114
Bank Bills, on demand	1/114
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/114
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	1/114
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/114
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	2/0
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	247
Credits 4 months' sight	2504
ON GERMANY.—	
On demand	201
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	474
Credits, 60 days' sight	484

ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	146
Bank, on demand	1464
ON CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	146
Bank, on demand	1464
ON SHANGHAI.—	
Bank, at sight	714
Private, 30 days' sight	724
ON YOKOHAMA.—	
On demand	964
ON MANILA.—	
On demand	954
ON SINGAPORE.—	
On demand	14 p.c. pm.
ON BATAVIA.—	
On demand	1174
ON HAIPHONG.—	
On demand	4 p.c. pm.
ON SAIGON.—	
On demand	par
ON BANGKOK.—	
On demand	604
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	\$10.20
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	\$54.30
BAR SILVER, per oz.	284

TONNAGE.

HONGKONG, 10th February.—Freights during the past fortnight have ruled weak with little demand for tonnage. From Saigon to this, 12 cents last; to Philippines, 29 cents; to Japan, 40 cents. From north coast Java to this, 30 cents per picul. Wuhu to Canton, 25 cents per picul. Bangkok to this, no demand. Coal freights are weak. From Moji to this, \$1.70; to Singapore, \$2; to Manila, \$3; to Saigon, \$3. Time charters. There has been a good demand, resulting in several fixtures.

The following are the settlements:—

Hinsang—British steamer, 1,537 tons, Moji to Saigon, \$3 per ton.
Orange—Norwegian steamer, 1,001 tons, hence to Nagasaki and Kobe, \$3,750 in full.
Probus—Norwegian steamer, 1,024 tons, Saigon to one port Japan, 43 cents per picul (February).
Chihli—British steamer, 1,143 tons, Saigon to one port Philippines, 29 cents per picul.
Nanshan—British steamer, 1,299 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 12 cents per picul.
Telemachus—British steamer, 1,340 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 12 cents per picul.
Pollux—Norwegian steamer, 779 tons, monthly, 3 months, at \$7,000 per month.
Melita—French steamer, 200 tons, monthly, 6 months, at \$3,500 per month.
Tai-fu—German steamer, 1,068 tons, monthly, 6 months, at \$8,000 per month.
Decima—German steamer, 794 tons, monthly, 9 months, at \$6,750 per month.
Sullberg—German steamer, 782 tons, monthly, 12 months, at \$5,500 per month.
Progress—German steamer, 687 tons, monthly, 12 months, at \$5,500 per month.

FREIGHTS.

Messrs. Wheelock & Co.'s Freight Market Report dated Shanghai, 2nd February, 1905 states:—Our Homeward Freight market remains in much the same state as when last writing as regards the quantity of cargo going forward is concerned, and now that we are close upon China New Year all export will be practically suspended for the next couple of weeks; as regards tonnage the Hamburg-America line are making a new departure in putting on three fast cargo steamers with excellent passenger accommodation, specially adapted for the tropics, which should soon prove themselves favourites under the go-ahead management of that company. Coa-twise:—As usually happens about China New Year there is very little coast business offering, and rates have declined all round, although it would be difficult to say how long this is going to last or how far rates will drop, opinions are so diverse from the different standpoints of owners and charterers. In spite of the drop in rates tonnage is rather scarce, and we are inclined to predict a rise after the holidays which should continue as the opening up of the Northern Ports draws near.

From Hankow per Conference Steamers.—To London and Northern Continental ports (via Shanghai):—46/- plus River Freight. To Genoa, Marseilles or Havre (via Shanghai):—Tea and General Cargo 41/6 plus River Freight. To New York (Overland):—Tea G. \$14 cents per lb. gross, plus River Freight. To New York (via Suez):—Tea and General Cargo 35/- per ton. To Shanghai:—Tea and General Cargo Tael 1.80 per ton weight or measurement.

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

February—

ARRIVALS.

- 3, Hanoi, French str., from Haiphong.
- 3, Lanshan, German str., from Moji.
- 3, Nanshan, U.S. collier, from Cavite.
- 3, Stentor, British str., from Liverpool.
- 3, Yatsing, British str., from Wuhu.
- 3, Zoroaster, British str., from Kutchinotzu.
- 4, An Pho, British str., from Saigon.
- 4, Baron Eldon, British str., from Karatsu.
- 4, Clara Jessen, German str., from Wuhu.
- 4, Henley, British str., from Cardiff.
- 4, Keongwai, German str., from Bangkok.
- 4, Pitsanulok, German str., from Bangkok.
- 4, Taiwan, British str., from Wuhu.
- 4, Tungshing, British str., from Chikiang.
- 5, Andromeda, British cr., from Mirs Bay.
- 5, Astraea, British cruiser, from Mirs Bay.
- 5, Centurion, British cruiser, from Mirs Bay.
- 5, Chiyeen, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
- 5, Haitan, British str., from Swatow.
- 5, Hogue, British cruiser, from Mirs Bay.
- 5, Iphigenia, British cr., from Mirs Bay.
- 5, Ocean, British battleship, from Mirs Bay.
- 5, Pollux, Norwegian str., from Sourabaya.
- 5, Sutlej, British cruiser, from Mirs Bay.
- 5, Vengeance, British b'ship, from Mirs Bay.
- 6, Caledonien, French str., from Marseilles.
- 6, Chefoo, British str., from Wuhu.
- 6, Ernest Simons, Fr. str., from Shanghai.
- 6, G. Apoar, British str., from Calcutta.
- 6, Lisa, Norwegian str., from Chink'ang.
- 6, Loongsang, British str., from Manila.
- 6, Mas Issa, British str., from Yokohama.
- 6, Ruth, Norwegian str., from Moji.
- 6, Rabi, British str., from Manila.
- 6, Sangola, British str., from Rangoon.
- 6, Sylviana, British str., from Barry.
- 6, Themis, Norwegian str., from Kobe.
- 6, Wongsai, German str., from Bangkok.
- 6, Woosung, British str., from Shanghai.
- 7, Decima, German str., from Anping.
- 7, Hangchow, British str., from Wuhu.
- 7, Johanne, German str., from Cebu.
- 7, Orange, Norwegian str., from Bangkok.
- 7, Patroclus, British str., from Liverpool.
- 7, Szechuen, British str., from Wuhu.
- 7, Hongbee, British str., from Singapore.
- 7, Petrarch, German str., from Saigon.
- 7, Pronto, Norwegian str., from Mauritius.
- 8, Arabia, German str., from Portland.
- 8, Borneo, German str., from Sandakan.
- 8, Capri, Italian str., from Bombay.
- 8, Chikiang, British str., from Shanghai.
- 8, Frithjof, Norwegian str., from Tamsui.
- 8, Germanicus, German str., from Moji.
- 8, Haiching, British str., from Tamsui.
- 8, Holstein, German str., from Chefoo.
- 8, Laertes, British str., from Saigon.
- 8, Lydia, German str., from Chikiang.
- 8, Mercedes, British str., from Wellington.
- 8, Paoting, British str., from Wuhu.
- 8, Reigate, British str., from Barry.
- 8, Tsinan, British str., from Yokohama.
- 9, China, American str., from S. Francisco.
- 9, Indrani, British str., from Cardiff.
- 9, Loyal, German str., from Karatsu.
- 9, Pekin, British str., from Bombay.
- 9, Titania, Ger. storeship, from Singapore.
- 9, Triton, German str., from Karatsu.

February—

DEPARTURES.

- 4, Sachsen, German str., for Shanghai.
- 5, Hongkong, French str., for Haiphong.
- 5, Kwongsang, British str., for Shanghai.
- 5, M. Struve, German str., for Swatow.
- 6, Chiyeen, Chinese str., for Canton.
- 6, Yatsing, British str., for Canton.
- 7, Caledonien, French str., for Shanghai.
- 7, Ernest Simons, French str., for Europe.
- 7, Hangchow, British str., for Canton.
- 7, Hupeh, British str., for Shanghai.
- 7, Szechuen, British str., for Canton.
- 7, Tungshing, British str., for Canton.
- 7, Woosung, British str., for Canton.
- 8, C. Diederichsen, German str., for Hoihow.
- 8, Emprs. of India, Brit. str., for Vancouver.
- 8, Haitan, British str., for Swatow.
- 8, Hanoi, French str., for Haiphong.
- 8, Mathilde, German str., for Hoihow.
- 8, Mongolia, Amr. str., for San Francisco.
- 8, Rhenania, German str., for Shanghai.
- 8, Sambia, German str., for Yokohama.
- 8, Stentor, British str., for Shanghai.
- 9, Haitan, French str., for Hoihow.
- 9, Henley, British str., for Sasebo.
- 9, Kumsang, British str., for Calcutta.

- 9, Lydia, German str., for Canton.
- 9, Meefoo, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
- 9, Mercedes, British str., for Weihaiwei.
- 9, Patroclus, British str., for Shanghai.
- 9, Pentakota, British str., for Amoy.
- 9, Reigate, British str., for Sasebo.
- 9, Teau, British str., for Manila.

PASSENGER LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per *Sachsen*, for Hongkong, from Bremen, Mr. G. F. Preuss; from Southampton, Mrs. N. Pinkerton and Mr. F. W. Macgregor; from Genoa, Messrs. Joh. C. Kitzmantel, James B. Bronson and Robert Stulmann; from Colombo, Mr. Reynolds; from Singapore, Capt. J. Hall, Major-General F. Slade, Mrs. C. W. Vance, Mr. John Bushby, Capt. Farguharson, Messrs. F. Riedel, E. Holmes, S. Kato, Tamaguchi, D. Fotheringham, C. Takakoshi, and Matsui; for Shanghai, from Southampton, Dr. Cole, Mr. S. Berry, Rev. G. L. Pullen, Mr. Wyatt, Mrs. E. M. Reid, Mr. A. E. Cornish, Mrs. M. Pearson, and Mr. John Harrison; from Genoa, Mrs. Gramutshikoff, Misses Nordmann and Hedwig Kuipfing, Dr. A. von Rostborn, Messrs. E. Muuder, Rud. Boehme, T. B. Bauer, Reinhold Walsman, Aug. Kruse, Carlos Rogge, Ch. Selsted, Walther Busse, Boris K-tun and Luigi Marzoli; from Naples, Messrs. Gunlin Barluzzi, Giuseppe Fulloni and Gackenholz; from Suez, Mr. and Mrs. F. Rabinovitch; from Colombo, Messrs. S. del and Braunstein, Mr. and Mrs. Karsmeyer, Messrs. Mary Pear and H. Kop; from Penang, Mr. Chill; from Singapore, Mr. Schaepman, Misses Ross and Kora Ross, and Mrs. White; for Tsingtau, from Genoa, Mr. Gerloch and Capt. von Semmra; for Nagasaki, from Penang, Mrs. Kondo Fude, Mrs. S. Hise, Mrs. Yamamoto Yao, Mrs. Segowa Mon; from Singapore, Messrs. Kimura, Kaday, Okamoto, and Miss Ohchito; for Kobe, from Southampton, Messrs. Fujioka and Sychiro; from Genoa, Mr. Kojiro Iwasuki; from Colombo, Mr. K. Daiko; from Singapore, Messrs. Fuje, Ohashi, Namura, Tema and Fukui; for Yokohama, from Bremen, Mr. Kichinose Ishuit; from Antwerp, Mr. Fr. Ingold; from Southampton, Mr. Charles Lund; from Genoa, Prof. Ad. Fischer, Mrs. Paul Helm; from Port Said, Mr. Albert Meyer; from Penang, Capt. and Mrs. Long, Mr. E. Watson; from Singapore, Messrs. E. L. Torstrick, G. Strahl and O. Stanley Gibbons.

Per *Ernest Simons*, for Hongkong, from Yokohama, Mrs. Fortune and son, Messrs. Martin, Ascoli, Femat and Fatt; from Shanghai, Messrs. Taokay, Mueller, Boyd, Kien, Thyen and Barnes, Mr. and Mrs. Heniff and 3 children, Messrs. Murray, Martha, Anderson, Helsgaun, Vaughan, Allanson, Jaffer, Lieut. Brooke, Messrs. Naltaly, Young, Taylor, Cooper, Mrs. Carmen, Messrs. Kleinmann, Hion, Hakao, Katai and Roberts; for Saigon, from Shanghai, Messrs. Verbilios, Hisater and Desmares; for Singapore, from Yokohama, Comte Gullina, Messrs. Young and Chotirmall; from Shanghai, Messrs. Williams, Harry Morning and Garnier; for Colombo, from Yokohama, Messrs. Verschur and Gaba; from Shanghai, Lieuts. Ganetzine, Gantzevitch, Pakousheff, Mr. and Mrs. Palizini, Messrs. Rall, Petroff, Glinka, Passadaroff, Dopoff, Winter, Dodgousky and Nikoloski; for Port Said, from Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. Polilevosky, Prince Kikonatov, Col. Lazroff, Mr. Huperu, Mr. and Mrs. Echerkassoro, Mrs. Ramensky, Mr. and Mrs. Echerkassoro and child, Mrs. Grummelman, Mrs. Prestine, Mr. and Mrs. Tyrtoro, Messrs. Versa, Du Vernoi, Mehauetzky, Alexeieff, Boutlere, Homonno, Garchine, Livando, Fraenkel, Vesselago, Poplavsky, Teherkosoo, Staal, Gorlatchersky, Klappfel, Rinsky, Zraferky, Menchov, Lhoff, Korolev, Dlussny, Korotkik, Bissack, Baranoff, Ivatchenko, Doniloff, Alalykin, Gladkow, Ave-laune, Strahowsky, Mr. and Mrs. Vasilievo, Mr. and Mrs. Nadkine, Messrs. Kowmenko, Silvestrow, Illinsky, Dobror, Dandree, Ivanoff, Iljanorv, Mr. and Mrs. Vesseloff, Mr. and Mrs. Terentioff, Messrs. Titore, Sarra, Guerman, Semenov, Everdy, Boudiatzky, Mr. and Mrs. Bard and son, Mrs. Nicolaiev, Mr. and Mrs. Makarenko, Messrs. Gregoriev, Stefano, Dylenky, Mr. and Mrs. Sennetseff, Messrs. Ziroff, Jullin, Kollas, and Ermanton; for Marseilles, from Yokohama, Mr. E. Tradel; from Kobe, Mr. Hanlet; from Shanghai, Mr. Madier, Mrs. Ballard, Mrs. Bartley, Messrs. Ollive, Dubois, Davis, Welsh, Sabatier, Normand, Marquis

Iforze, Messrs. Le Kolland, Minezzi, Gasse, Allan, Motter, Mr. and Mrs. Mosca, Messrs. Thoribe, Raguene, Gr'eguenia and Tivedo.

Per *Caledonien*, for Hongkong, from Marseilles, Messrs. Lutz and J. M. Portel; from Aden, Viscomte de Monte de Sao; from Colombo, Mr. G. W. Gilles; from Singapore, Messrs. Sackzimi and A. D. Sapoworth, Sisters Verezen Rossi and S. Eangapi; from Saigon, Messrs. L. Thompson and K. P. Deronzier, Mrs. Rolles, Mr. A. M. S. Man, Rev. Villeneuve, Sisters Mario and Victorine, and Mr. Tallen; for Shanghai, from Marseilles, Mrs. Guetton, Mr. Yver de la Brucholette, Revs. Dulton and Rauson, and Mr. Friedrich; from Port Said, Mr. Senuet, Mrs. and Miss Maigre, and Mr. Nicolas Castres; from Colombo, Messrs. Elipulo and Constantinides; from Saigon, Messrs. W. Pratt and Pomezel; for Kobe, from Marseilles, Messrs. Martin and Chapuy; for Yokohama, Mr. E. Baumgartner.

Per *Tsinan*, from Yokohama, &c., Messrs. Freeman, Minter, Calton and Woodruff.

Per *China*, from San Francisco, &c., Mrs. E. S. Bragg, Capt. J. W. Craig, U.S.A., Mrs. J. W. Craig, Mr. G. Arone, Mr. and Mrs. R. C. Gunning, Mr. W. E. Gray, Mrs. H. G. Del Castillo, Miss M. Del Castillo, Miss V. L. Fraser, Messrs. U. A. Howard, J. E. Malloy, B. E. McClelland, C. C. McLain, W. J. Mozart, G. Moffatt, R. C. Miller, Morgan Robinson, T. F. Robson, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Shuman, Mr. E. P. Shuman, Mrs. F. S. Torgart, Messrs. Chas. A. Vail, Chas. E. Winey, Capt. Petersen, Mrs. A. Winberg, Mrs. L. Maxwell, and Mr. Yang L. Fonger.

DEPARTED.

Per *Prinz Waldemar*, for Friedrich Wilhelmshafen, Messrs. Paul Schiller, H. Wemmer, W. Gunzel and R. Worbs; for Herbertshohe, Dr. Seibert and M. Goebel; for Matupi, Mr. Westplat; for Sydney, Messrs. W. Douglas, Max Schmidt, R. Schmidt, E. C. Huster and W. C. Zwiag, and Mrs. B. Wilkens.

Per *Sachsen*, for Shanghai, Messrs. S. C. Cowan, Sedgwick, Dudley, W. Iuman, Bienefeld, Ch. A. Graves, W. J. L. ppy, T. Carret, J. Talambiras, H. Ip'and, O. Perkins, Fr. Barow, and Robertson, Mr. and Mrs. Millan, Mr. and Mrs. Weinberg, Mr. and Mrs. R. Perez, Mr. and Mrs. Mead, Mrs. Syks, Mr. and Mrs. W. Davies, Mr. and Mrs. Anderson, Capt. and Mrs. Le Sauvage, Mr. and Mrs. Seyder, Rev. and Mrs. Whiteside; for Nagasaki, Messrs. Yamamoto, Inoye and Yamazota; for Kobe, Mr. F. S. Mounteith; for Yokohama, Messrs. D. E. Graham, T. Leupold, H. Hertz, Mr. and Mrs. Bodo v. Dewitz.

Per *Ernest Simons*, for Saigon, Messrs. W. D. Kraft, Henri de Lamothe, Fradias, Paul Semanne, Lozach, S. Stein, Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Wenyon, Rev. Ballo, Miss Loperjka, Messrs. Bouge, Man, and Schuyler; for Singapore, Messrs. Francisco Melanderas, Abraham Rantus, Mrs. Taubman, Mr. R. Matsuo, Mr. and Mrs. Linn; for Marseilles, Messrs. H. Ullmann, C. Sasse, Peyrot Lanauze, F. Feindt, and Rev. Paquier.

Per *Empress of India*, for Vancouver, &c., Mr. and Mrs. Frank Gatto, Messrs. J. C. O'Brien, S. Houghton, S. C. Cowan, Miss L. V. Cohn, Dr. H. B. Williamson, Messrs. L. V. Cole, G. W. Giles, A. D. Sansworth, F. L. Lawrence, A. L. Anderson, Miss F. La Prieton, Messrs. H. R. Boyd, E. des Vœux, Mr. and Miss Bruins, Messrs. W. Farquharson, John R. Young, Pollard Lilliputian Opera Co., Rev. and Mrs. P. G. Graham and child, Messrs. F. B. Deacon, S. A. Rohim, Wm. F. Bradley, B. F. Dixon, Mr. and Miss B. H. Rucker, Messrs. W. C. Murray and J. C. E. Douglas.

Per *Mongolia*, for Japan ports, Col. and Mrs. J. L. Chamberlain, Mrs. M. Milton, Miss A. Robinson, and Mr. H. B. Sullivan; for San Francisco, &c., Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Fox, Messrs. H. H. Balch and C. W. Rapp, Mrs. S. A. Bobbitt, Messrs. J. L. Davis, W. E. Uriwin, C. B. G. Wilson, E. Hidalgo, W. C. Russell, Mr. and Mrs. J. K. Brown, Mr. Jno. M. Tu'har, Mrs. M. St. J. Werner and infant, Mr. and Mrs. John Bushby, Mr. W. D. Hobbs, Mr. and Mrs. Fortune, Mr. W. F. Piaggio, and Lieut.-Col. E. A. Belford.

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